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ROBERT STEWART, A.M.

AUSTRALASIA

WITH

AN APPENDIX:

CONTAINING AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS, ILLUSTRATING THE
PROGRESS AND STATE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES,
TO THE LATEST DATE.

LONDON.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

In modern times, especially at the present period, the general intercourse of knowledge amongst all classes,—the intimate commercial and political relations existing between civilised communities,—and the universal desire of all inquiring minds to become acquainted with distant countries, and with the inhabitants, condition, and productions of regions differing from our own,—unite in rendering Geographical Knowledge interesting to the majority of the human family; while to many it is indispensable, in qualifying them for the pursuits of commerce and industry, and for much of the current and daily avocations of life.

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AUSTRALASIA.

INTRODUCTION.

IN introducing this extensive and valuable British colony to the notice of our readers, it may be necessary to give a description of the *fifth quarter* of the globe, to which it is allowed by geographers to belong; we will, therefore, do so as shortly as possible.

OCEANICA is the name which has been adopted to designate all the countries which are considered as forming the Fifth grand Division of the Globe. Up to the middle of the last century, and even later, theoretical geographers, (from the fanciful idea of the necessity of an equilibrium in the solid parts of the surface of the earth,) supposed that a vast continent surrounded the Antarctic Pole, and they gave the name of *Terra Australis* to this imaginary region. When the errors of these speculative writers were corrected by the voyages and discoveries of the celebrated navigator Captain Cook, all the islands lying south of Asia, and those in the Pacific Ocean, had already received peculiar proper names. It did not seem convenient to the geographers of that period to add those islands to any particular quarter of the globe; and

they wished, therefore, to devise a name which should comprehend the whole of them, and at the same time point out their real position. The different terms, Australia, Australasia, and Oceanica, have been proposed by different writers, of which the last appears to have obtained the ascendancy.

The islands composing Oceanica are situated partly to the south of Asia, and partly on the wide Pacific, between Asia and America. This portion of the globe began to be discovered after America and the South Seas were known to Europeans. Magellan, who first undertook a voyage round the world, had promised the Spanish monarch, (into whose service he entered when he left the Portuguese,) that he would arrive at the Moluccas by sailing westward. On this voyage he discovered, on the 6th of March, 1521, the Ladrões, or Mariana Islands, a group of which constitutes a part of Oceanica. Magellan must therefore, in justice, be regarded as the first discoverer of this portion of the globe, and opened the way for the subsequent discoveries in this quarter. It was nearly three hundred years after this voyage of Magellan before all the islands, which now pass under the name of Oceanica, were known to Europeans.

After Magellan the Spanish navigators continued the process of discovery in this part of the world, particularly Alvaro de Mendano, who, in the latter end of the sixteenth century, discovered the Solomon Islands and the Marquesas, and passed through the Society and Friendly Islands without observing them. Fernandos de Quiros, who had accompanied him on his third voyage, took a southerly direction, and hit upon the part of the Pacific Ocean which contains the most islands. He made known to the world the Society Islands and Terra del Espiritu Santo. In the seventeenth

century, the Dutch, always thirsting after new discoveries, began to explore this part of the ocean, and, besides several small islands, discovered the large island of Australia, or New Holland, which received its name from them, although we have every reason for supposing that it had been visited by the Portuguese upwards of a hundred years before them; but their discoveries seem, for political reasons, to have been concealed by their government, and afterwards altogether forgotten. Tasman, a Dutchman, and Dampier, an Englishman, successfully continued these discoveries. In the middle of the eighteenth century, the English navigators Byron, Carteret, and Wallis, and Bougainville, a Frenchman, exerted themselves to extend the knowledge of Oceanica. But Captain James Cook, who circumnavigated the globe, from 1768 to 1779, contributed most to the accurate examination of this portion of the globe, corrected the knowledge of Europeans with regard to the islands already known, again discovered islands before seen, and was the first discoverer of New Caledonia and the Sandwich Islands. Among the later navigators we may mention Entrecasteaux, Grant, La Perouse, Baudin, Flinders, King, Krusenstern, Kotzebue, and Beechy, as those who have chiefly added to our knowledge of this region.

Many of the islands are extensive countries, and one of them is about equal in area to the whole of Europe. The whole surface of the islands may be estimated at 5,000,000 square miles, an extent perhaps nearly equal to one-tenth part of all the land on the globe. It is almost impossible to compute the number of inhabitants, but we do not imagine we exceed the population, when we state it to be at least 24,000,000. No portion of the globe has more inequalities of surface, and it is

remarkable that all the mountain ranges have a general direction from north to south. Many of the mountains are volcanic, and are described by navigators, as often seeming to the mariner to rise like giants from the bosom of the deep. In no part of the world are there so many volcanoes. In Schouten's Island, near New Guinea, the flames and smoke rise calmly over a fruitful and smiling country; in other islands, dreadful torrents of black lava darken the shores. The volcano of Gilolo broke out in 1673, with a violence which made the whole of the Moluccas shake. The ashes were carried as far as Mergindanao, and the scoria and the pumice-stones, floating on the sea, seemed to retard the progress of the vessels. Several canoes are also in constant activity in the Sandwich Islands.

The formation of many of these islands is attributed to the operations of minute insects. All the low islands appear to have for their base a reef of coral rocks, generally disposed in a circular form. In the interior the sand is mixed with pieces of broken coral, and other marine substances, proving that such islands have been originally formed by these coral rocks, which are inhabited, and according to some, created by zoophytes, (vegetables partaking of the nature both of plants and animals) and afterwards augmented and elevated by the slow accumulation of light bodies drifted to them by the sea. It is very remarkable that in some of these islands there are elevations of several feet in height, on whose summits the coral rocks are found; this seems to prove that they have been formed by coral insects at the level of the sea, which has gradually retired and left them exposed.

The climate throughout Oceania is, for the most part, delightful. Perpetual spring continued

with perpetual summer, displays the opening blossom, mingled with the ripened fruits. A perfume of exquisite sweetness embalms the atmosphere, which is continually refreshed by the wholesome breezes from the sea. Here might mankind, if they could throw off their vices, lead lives exempt from trouble and from want. . Their bread grows on the trees which shade their paths, and the light boats and canoes glide in safety on the tranquil seas, protected from the swelling surge of the mighty ocean, by the coral rocks which enlose them.

The islands of Oceanica afford a very varied vegetation, among the trees and plants of which there are many of the greatest benefit to the natives. In the Sunda Islands, the Philippines, and the Moluccas, rice occupies the place of wheat, and the culture of it is probably extended over New Guinea; these also produce in abundance those tropical articles which are of chief importance in commerce; cotton, sugar, pepper, coffee, and spices of all kinds, in greater variety than in any other part of the world. Farther to the east, in the islands of Polynesia, there are several exceedingly useful esculent roots and plants, which grow either spontaneously, or under the influence of culture. The yam, the taro, the sweet potatoe, the plantain, and the banana,—all, more or less, answer the double purpose of bread and vegetables. The most important product of these islands is the bread-fruit tree, the trunk of which rises to the height of forty feet, and attains the thickness of a man's body. The fruit is as large as a child's head: gathered before it is quite ripe, and baked among ashes, it becomes a wholesome bread, somewhat resembling fresh wheat bread in taste. One traveller, who had partaken several times of this

fruit, remarks, "Better flavoured bread I never tasted in any of the numerous countries it has been my fortune to visit ; it is as nourishing to the body as it is grateful to the palate." This has been corroborated by many. After the bread-fruit tree, the cocoa-nut is the most serviceable ; it grows equally well in the richest and in the most barren soils : and in its fruit, its wood, its leaves, and its fibres, it is equally subservient to the wants, and the necessities of the people. Besides the articles enumerated, fruits of various kinds abound, and of excellent quality ; the chief are oranges, shaddocks, limes, citrons, pine and custard apples, guavas, figs, &c. In many of the islands the principal European grains and vegetables have been introduced, and grow in great perfection.

The people of Oceanica are divided into two races, distinct in origin, language, aspect and character, and irreconcilably hostile to each other ;—the *brown* and the *black* races. They bear the same analogy that the white and the negro bear in the Western regions ; the former, superior in intelligence and power, driving the other before him, oppressing and reducing him to bondage. Thus in all the great islands, the brown race has now established a decided and undisputed superiority.

The black race, called often the Papuas or Oriental Negroes, appear to be a dwarf variety of the negro of Africa. They are of low stature, and of feeble frame, generally under, and never exceeding five feet in height. The colour is sooty rather than black ; the woolly hair grows in small tufts, with a spiral twist. The forehead is higher, the nose more projecting, the upper lip longer and more prominent. The under lip is protruded, and forms, indeed, the lower part of the face, which has scarcely the vestige of a chin. This degraded

class of human beings is generally diffused through New-Guinea, and other large islands of the Pacific. Their habits have been very little observed, Europeans having only had occasional individuals presented to them as objects of curiosity. Little is recorded, except the ferocity with which they wage their ceaseless wars with the brown races, who have driven them from all the finer parts of the region.

The brown, or Malay tribes, especially those which inhabit the islands of Malaysia, are short, squat, and robust, being reckoned, on an average, four inches lower than the European standard. There are considerable varieties of colour and appearance, which can hardly be accounted for by the climate. These islanders are rather an ugly race; their frame is deficient in symmetry; their lower limbs large and heavy. The face is round; the mouth wide, but with fine teeth; the cheek-bones high, the nose short and small: the eyes are small, and always black. The hair is long, lank, harsh, and always black, and, except on the head, extremely deficient.

The Malays of Sumatra; Java, Borneo, &c., are generally Mahometans, much addicted to piracy; in their disposition daring, restless, ferocious and vindictive; to their enemies remorseless; to friends capricious; and to strangers extremely treacherous. Amongst them, gambling and games of hazard are pursued with an intense degree of passion. Every man goes armed with a crees or dagger, which he regards as the instrument, both of defending himself and avenging his wrongs. The right of private revenge is claimed by every individual for injuries received either by himself, his family, or his tribe. When circumstances deprive him of any hope of avenging himself with ease and safety, he

has recourse to that dreadful outrage peculiar to these islands, termed *running a muck*.^b The individual, under this impulse, draws his dagger, and runs through the house or into the street, stabbing without distinction every person he meets, till he himself is either killed or taken. This movement is always sudden,^c indicated by no private looks or gestures, and from motives which it is frequently difficult to discover. The police-officers, in contemplation of these violences, are provided with certain forked instruments, with which they arrest and secure the offender.

The inhabitants of the Polynesian islands, though of the same race, are much more distinguished for beauty and regularity of form, than those of Malaysia.^e Their complexion is sometimes not darker than that of the Spaniards and Italians. Social life, among these islanders, presents peculiar and picturesque aspects. Instead of those fierce and gloomy propensities which usually sway the breast of savage tribes, their manners are distinguished by a courtesy, gaiety, and amenity, which, combined with the beauty and abundance with which the land is gifted, made it appear to the first voyagers like a terrestrial paradise. These flattering appearances, however, proved in many respects to be very fallacious. Amid the lavish kindness with which Europeans were greeted they soon discovered an universal propensity to pilfering, while the virtue of the female sex was not proof against nails, buttons, or the most insignificant toys. These faults were doubtless aggravated by the attractive nature of these new and tempting objects; but it was, moreover, soon evident that their dances and other amusements were conducted in a manner the most revolting to decorum, and that there existed in Otaheite a society called *arreeoy*, who made it a

regular system to have wives in common, and to put their offspring to death. Nor was infanticide the only practice marked by the ferocity of savage life. In many of the islands cannibalism is still practised; and in the most polished, there remain traces of its former existence. The natives of the Sandwich and Friendly Islands were at first considered more respectable; but their character, on further acquaintance, was found to be stained with practices equally revolting.

The native religion of these islanders may be ranked amongst the darkest forms of superstition. It not only gives no support to virtue, but affords full sanction to the most cruel, and dissolute practices. Even the flagitious society of *arreey* was supposed to possess a peculiar sanctity. Not only animals were offered in profusion, but human victims were universally sacrificed on the blood stained altars, of the Polynesian divinities. One of the observances which most powerfully influenced their habitual existence was that of *taboo*, a species of prohibition, which a person, in honour of his favourite divinity, may impose upon himself, upon any part of his body, his house, his boat, or whatever may belong to him.

European intercourse, however, during the present century, has effected a remarkable change upon these islands and their inhabitants. Among the most active agents in this good work, have been the various religious missionaries. Another cause may be found in the increased number of British and other whaling and trading vessels, which frequent, of late years, the different islands and ports of these regions. Hence the harbours of some, particularly the Sandwich Islands, are oftentimes crowded with vessels, and both English and American merchants have even settled in their ports. The mariners and

missionaries, two very opposite classes of men, do not always act in unison, or report very favourably of each other; but they have combined in producing a somewhat grotesque mixture of the arts, manners, and civilization of Europe, with the rude licentious habits to which the people were previously addicted. The missionaries have attained a predominant influence in many of these islands. Spacious churches have been built, which the natives frequent, decently dressed, and with a serious and reverential air. Still the missionaries candidly admit that much is yet wanting, both as to Christian knowledge and conduct. The observance of the Sabbath, which is the most conspicuous part of their religious practice, seems, in a great measure, connected with their ancient veneration for anything *tabooed*. Captain Beechey alleges that they venerate their bibles, in some degree, rather as household gods, means of mysterious protection, than as sources of instruction. Yet on the whole, it cannot be denied, that much good has been done by the pious labours of the missionaries; the grossest superstitions have been demolished, human victims no longer bleed on their heathen altars, the *arrogant* society is broken up, infanticide has ceased, public decorum is generally observed, and many of the natives have become examples of piety. The missionaries have introduced letters into these islands where, previously, nothing of that nature existed; neither hieroglyphics, pictorial representations, nor symbols of any description. As soon as Christianity was established, they set on foot schools; and the natives applied themselves with extraordinary ardour to this new acquisition. Mr. Ellis tells us, that "aged chiefs and priests, and hardy warriors, with their spelling-books in their hands might be seen sitting hour after hour, on the benches in the

schools, by the side perhaps of some smiling boy or girl, by whom they were thankful to be taught the use of letters." Yet, after the first novelty was over, considerable difficulty has been found in obtaining regular attendance, which yet is anxiously desired, not only with a view to instruction, but for forming the youth to regular habits. Still a considerable number have thus obtained a competent knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

•The animal kingdom of Oceanica, affords only a few specimens of the great quadrupeds common to the other divisions of the globe. It possesses, however, several species which are peculiar, and not found elsewhere. The most remarkable is the Ouran Outang, or wild man of the woods. He is not very common, and is mostly found in Borneo. He is from three to four and a half feet in height, and nearly covered with a brownish red hair. He is incapable of walking erect, but seems peculiarly fitted for climbing trees. In his habits he is very similar to a common monkey. The Pongo, supposed by some naturalists, to be the Ourah Outang of mature age, is from six to seven feet in height, and is very formidable from its strength and fierceness. This animal is a native of Sumatra and Borneo. The long-armed ape, or Siamang, is found in troops in Sumatra; they are headed by a chief, who is considered invulnerable by the Malays: these animals assemble at sunrise, and make the woods echo with their wild and peculiar cry. In captivity they are remarkably tractable. The singular Proboscis Monkey, is distinguished from all others by having a long projecting nose, giving to the head of the animal the appearance of a ludicrous mask.

The Malay Tapir is in size nearly equal to the Buffalo, and is particularly distinguished by its

colour ; the fore and hind parts being glossy black, while the body has a broad and well defined belt of white extending nearly round it, resembling a piece of white linen thrown upon the animal. Its disposition is so mild and gentle that it will become as tame and familiar as a dog. The Babyroussa Hog, found in Borneo and the adjacent islands, has much of the manners of the pig : it is said to swim remarkably well, and even to pass from one island to another : the tusks are enormous, and appear more like curled horns rising out of the jaws, than teeth. The Javanese Genet, or Coffee rat, has obtained the latter name on account of its fondness for coffee : in pilfering the berry, it selects only the ripest and most perfect, which, being discharged unchanged, are eagerly collected by the natives, as the coffee is thus obtained without the tedious process of shelling. It also commits depredations on various descriptions of fruits, especially pine apples. If taken young it soon becomes gentle and docile, and readily subsists on either vegetable or animal food.

The Kangaroo, of which there are many varieties, occurs only in New Holland : the largest is about the size of a full grown sheep, and moves by springing about thirty feet at a leap, which it is enabled to do by the great length and strength of its hind legs. The female of all the different varieties is provided with an abdominal pouch, similar to that of the opossum, for the reception of the young. The flesh of this animal is much esteemed for food, which is said to resemble mutton. The Kangaroo is very timid, and flies from man, seeking instant concealment. The Dingo, or New Holland Dog is never known to bark : it is fierce, active, and voracious ; runs with its tail carried horizontally, the head elevated, and the ears erect. One that

was brought to England leaped on the back of an ass, and, if help had not been at hand, would have destroyed it. The Emu is a native of New Holland, and is somewhat like the Cassowary. It is of the same general character as the ostrich, and is next to it in size; it runs with great swiftness by the aid of its wings. The Emu is found in New Holland, and is sometimes hunted for its flesh, which has the flavour of beef. This bird has been transported to England, and is bred in the royal park at Windsor. The Black Swan is found in some of the islands: in form and habits it is similar to the White Swan, but is smaller.

The duck-billed Platypus is a most singular animal. It is about the size of a cat, covered with fur, and web-footed; instead of a mouth furnished with teeth it has the bill of a duck. It lives in watery and muddy spots. The foot of the male is armed with a spur, through which passes a poisonous liquor, rendering the animal dangerous: these creatures not only lay eggs, but also suckle their young.

The island of Sumatra contains several species of the Tiger; two of the Rhinoceros, one of which is the two horned species; also the Elephant, which, in a wild state is numerous in the woods: it is only at Acheen that a few have been trained to the service of man. Besides these animals, we might name, as inhabitants of the Oceanic Islands, parrots of great beauty, the bird of paradise, serpents which frequent the shores, and are often seen at sea, several miles from land; and many others. Dogs, hogs, and rats were found by the first navigators in most of the large islands. Domestic cattle, rabbits, cats, mice, &c., have been introduced from Europe.

The language of the great mass of the inhabitants

of Oceanica is the Malay and its various dialects, which has been traced and found to exist more or less from Sumatra almost to the shores of South America. The varieties of this tongue are so similar, that the natives of islands far distant from each other converse with great ease when they happen to meet. The frequent occurrence of vowels and liquids renders it so soft and harmonious, that it has been called the Italian of the east. From this character and the extensive commerce of the Malays, it has become in some measure a universal language on the coast and islands of Eastern Asia: it contains many words derived from the Sanscrit, Persian, and Arabian tongues.

Oceanica comprises three great divisions, viz., Malaysia, Australasia, and Polynesia: the details of the first and last of these divisions will be here succinctly considered under their respective heads; the second, or Australasia, forming the subject of the present volume. Perhaps, at a future period, we may devote a volume to the consideration of the others.

Oceanica extends from the north-west point of Sumatra to the 158th degree of west longitude; and from the 40th degree of north, to the 50th degree of south latitude; comprising 160 degrees of longitude, or about 11,000 miles in length, and 90 degrees of latitude, or 6210 miles in breadth.

MALAYSIA.

MALAYSIA, called also the north-east Oceanica, and likewise the East Indian Archipelago, comprises those numerous islands lying south-westward from, and nearly approaching to, the great continent of Asia. The name is derived from the Malays, the

principal and predominant race in this region. The islands are Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, usually called the Sunda Isles, together with Celebes, the Moluccas or Spice Islands, and the Philippines, besides other smaller groups and islands. Malaysia is bounded on the north by the Malayan Sea and the Bay of Bengal, south by Australasia, east by Polynesia, and west by the Indian Ocean and the Chinese Sea. The population of these islands cannot, except in the instances of Java and the Philippines, be estimated with any degree of certainty. The whole is probably about 15,000,000, of which Java has been found to contain 7,000,000, the Philippine Islands, 3,000,000; Sumatra may be reckoned at 2,500,000; Borneo 500,000; Celebes, and its appendages, 1,000,000; Bally, Lombok, Sooloo, &c., 500,000; and Timor and the Spice Islands, &c., about 500,000.

THE SUNDA ISLANDS.—Sumatra, the largest of these islands, is separated by a narrow strait from the peninsula of Malaga, or Malacca. It is about 1,000 miles long, and is intersected by the equator. A chain of high mountains, some of which are volcanic, extend through its whole length. The coasts are low, marshy, and unhealthy. The country is divided into several petty kingdoms; in the north part of the island is Acheen; in the east Siak; and to the south Palembang and Lampong. The governments are generally hereditary despotisms. The interior is inhabited by several different tribes, of whom the Battas, accounted in some respects comparatively civilised, yet practise cannibalism among them. A part of the sentence of criminals, is to be eaten, which is invariably performed. Pepper is the principal product, which is raised and exported in large quantities; the other productions are cassia, sago, rice, coffee, and various

fruits. The Dutch have settlements at Bencoolen, Palembang, and Padang.

Sumatra is begirt with a number of islands, of which those on the west side have a mountainous and rugged aspect. The inhabitants bear but little affinity to those of the great island; they have more analogy to those of the eastern part of this region, and also to the islanders of Polynesia. Sago, instead of rice, is the staple food. The people called by the Malays, Mantaway, tatoo their skins, and speak a language quite different from that of Sumatra. Off the eastern coast are numerous islands, of which Pulo, Lingin, and Bintang have been long known to the Malays as a great seat both of commerce and piracy. They are ruled by a sultan resident at Lingin, who acknowledges the supremacy of the Dutch; and has lately ceded to them, in full sovereignty, the Island of Rhio, separated from Bintang by a narrow channel. Rhio being made a free port, has acquired great importance, both as an entrepot and a place of refreshment. Its population amounts to between seven and eight thousand. The Island of Banca derives its importance from its mines of tin. It was a dependency of Palembang, until the Dutch, a few years ago, erected it, with Billiton, into a separate residence or province. Billiton is distinguished by its mines of iron, the most valuable in this quarter; and nails made from it are exported to the neighbouring islands.

Java, which lies south-east from Sumatra, is separated from it by the Straits of Sunda, and is 650 miles in length. It is almost wholly volcanic, and is mountainous throughout its whole length: the northern coast is low, and marshy, and the southern rocky and precipitous. The climate in the low parts is very unhealthy; the soil is exceed-

ingly fertile, producing sugar, coffee, rice, pepper, spices, indigo, cotton, and fruits. In no part of the world is vegetation more luxuriant. A great part of the island is under the government of the Dutch; but the southern extremity, which is in the possession of the natives, contains the two native states of Jogo-Karta and Sölo-Karta, fragments of the empire of Mitram, which formerly held sway over the greater part of Java. The two capitals, bearing the same name with the kingdoms, are each estimated to contain 100,000 inhabitants. The whole population of the island is about 7,000,000.

Batavia, the capital, was formerly a large and magnificent city, but is now much decayed. It is built on a low spot, and the streets are traversed by canals, in the manner of the cities of Holland. It has long been famed for its unhealthiness, yet it still enjoys a large commerce, and contains about 75,000 inhabitants. The other chief towns are Sourabaya, Cheribon, and Samarang. Bantam was formerly an important place, but is now decayed. Java has been divided into twenty districts or residences, including the Island of Madura, which forms one of them. The latter is governed by three native princes, under the control of the Dutch. The people of this island profess the Hindoo religion.

Eastward from Java, extends a range of islands of which they seem almost a continuation; they are Bally, Lombok, Sumbawa, Jeendana, Mangeray, Floris, Sabrao, Solor, Lomblem, Pantar, Ombay, Welter, and Timor; the last is held jointly in possession by the Dutch and Portuguese. Coepang is the principal settlement of the first, and Deiby of the last. Sumbawa contains the kingdom of

Bima, tributary to the Dutch, also an active volcano which sometimes commits dreadful ravages.

Borneo is, next to Australia, the largest island in the world, being between 800 and 900 miles in length, and 700 in breadth. It is well gifted by nature, and though directly under the equator, the mountains of the interior, 8000 feet high, giving rise to numerous streams, entirely secure it from aridity. Its products are rice, pepper, cinnamon, coffee, and gold, and diamonds are found in abundance. * The inhabitants of the coasts are Malays, Javanese, and Bugis, or natives of the Celebes, all of whom are Mahometans. The interior is divided between independent tribes, between whom and the people of the coast there is constant war. The principal trade is at Berjur Maschin, a port of about 8000 inhabitants, the capital of a kingdom under the control of the Dutch. Borneo, the capital of a state which, during its greatness, gave its name to the whole island, is now much decayed, but still contains from twelve to fifteen thousand inhabitants. Succadana, and Pontiana, are places of some trade; the latter with about 6000 inhabitants.

Eastward of the coast of Borneo extends the Sooloo archipelago, containing twenty-seven islands, with an estimated population of 350,000 inhabitants, who are principally supported by piracy; and from 400 to 500 vessels, whose crews amount to 12,000 men, are continually issuing forth in this fierce and perilous occupation; the Sooloos are the Algerines of the eastern seas. *

Celebes lies east of Borneo; it is very irregular in shape, and contains 55,000 square miles. It is mountainous, with several volcanoes. The inhabitants are active, industrious, and robust, and are madly devoted to games of chance. The population is estimated at about one million souls, the

vast majority of whom profess the Mahometan faith. The government is an elective monarchy, the real power being in the hands of the hereditary chiefs. The Maccassars and Bugis are the two principal races, the latter are at present the rulers; those of Borneo are the most warlike, and those of Wagoo the most commercial. Maccassar is a city and territory at the south end of the island, in possession of the Dutch. The soil is exceedingly fertile, producing rice, cotton, cloves, nutmegs, sago, ebony, &c.

The Moluccas or Spice Islands were originally the small islands of Ternate, Tidor, Motir, Machian, and Batchian, lying off the west coast of Gilolo, but they now include the latter, together with Oby, Ceram, Amboyna, Boero, and the Banda isles; they derive celebrity from producing the precious commodity of cloves, nutmegs, and mace. Gilolo, also called Almahejera, is the largest of the group, and presents the usual spectacle in those regions of a rude people governed by a number of turbulent chieftains. Ceram is mostly under the power of a single prince, who is tributary to the Dutch. Amboyna is the chief European settlement, and is the only island where, until within these few years, the clove was permitted to be raised. The town of Amboyna contains about 8000 inhabitants.

The Philippine Islands form an extensive group of two large, and nine small islands, situated north east of Borneo. Few countries are more favoured as to soil and climate. Though placed but little north of the equator, the height of the mountains and the ocean breezes preserve them from suffering under any severe or scorching heat. They produce most of the staple tropical articles, sugar, rice, tobacco, coffee, cinnamon, &c. The largest of this group are Luzon and Mindanao: the others

are Samar, Negros, Leyte, Mindoro, Panay, Bohol, Zebu, Masbate, and Burlos. The islands belong to Spain: the great majority, however, of the inhabitants are of the native races, of which the most improved are the Tagalas; another is the Biscayans; there are also in the interior of the larger islands a considerable number of negroes of the Papuan race. Manilla is the capital of Luzon and of the whole group, and contains, with its suburbs, about 200,000 inhabitants. Its imports and exports are each upwards of one million dollars annually.

The Cows, or Keeling Islands, are several small islands lying on the usual track of European and American ships to China; they are about 700 miles south east from the western entrance of the straits of Sunda, and about fifteen years ago were taken possession of by two English gentlemen, whose intentions were, by the introduction of labourers, to cultivate and render them productive. The climate though warm, is salubrious, and the water good and abundant. The chief native product is the cocoa-nut, which abounds in great profusion. Many plants, fruits, &c., suitable to the climate have been introduced, and found to succeed well.

. POLYNESIA.

POLYNESIA, signifying the many isles, or Eastern Oceanica, is the name now generally given to the numerous groups of islands, with which a great portion of the Pacific Ocean is studded. While the islands composing Australasia are of such magnitude as to approach the character of continents, those of Polynesia are so small that most of them can scarcely

aspire above the diminutive appellation of islets; yet they are so numerous, and follow in such close succession that they may properly be considered as a region of the globe, bearing a peculiar aspect and character.

This division of Oceanica comprises the Ladrone and Caroline Islands, and those of the Central Archipelago; also the Sandwich, Marquesas or Washington, Society, Georgian, Pearl, and Paliser's Islands, together with the Friendly, the Austral, and Hervey's Islands, besides many other smaller groups and scattered islands. The population of this region has never been computed except by the most uncertain conjectures. Those formed by Cook and other navigators would lead to the belief that a million and a half might be about the amount; but more recent observations, particularly those of the missionaries, leave no doubt that this number is greatly exaggerated, and that a little more than half a million will be a more accurate approximation.

The *Ladrone* or *Marian Islands* lie north of the Caroline, and were the first known of the islands in this region, having been discovered by Magellan in the year 1512. They are covered for the most part with the rich vegetation peculiar to this climate, and have been highly extolled by some navigators as forming almost a paradise. The original inhabitants have been nearly exterminated in their wars with the Spaniards, who endeavoured to impose upon them their yoke and religion. The climate is mild and healthful, though, like the Carolines, subject to violent hurricanes. The people of the Ladrone islands possess canoes which are the admiration of sailors, being so skilfully constructed as to sail with a side wind twenty miles an hour.

The *Caroline Islands* form an extensive and numerous group on the north side of the equator; they extend from east to west upwards of thirty degrees of longitude, and are among the most imperfectly known of any islands in the Pacific Ocean, and are situated in a most tempestuous ocean, exposed to frequent hurricanes, some of which often sweep away the entire produce of an island, yet the people are still more at home on the waves than even the rest of the South Sea islanders, and are distinguished by their skill in navigation. The greater part of the Caroline Islands are low and of coral formation.

The *Pallæu*, or *Pelew Islands*, are the most western group of the Carolines. They are of moderate elevation, and are well wooded: they became an object of interest in Great Britain by the shipwreck, in the year 1783, of Captain Wilson in the *Antelope*, when he and his crew were received, and their wants supplied with the most generous kindness. Abba Thule, the king, with an enlightened desire to improve his people by a knowledge of the arts and attainments of Europe, sent along with the captain his son, prince Le Boo, who delighted the inhabitants of London by the amiable simplicity of his manners; but, unfortunately, he was seized with the small-pox and died. In Captain Wilson's narrative, the *Pelew Islanders* were represented in the most pleasing colours, but subsequent navigators who have visited these shores, draw a completely different picture, representing these people as displaying all the bad qualities incident to savage life.

Central Archipelago.—This name has been applied from their central situation to a number of detached groups, extending to a great distance, chiefly to the south-east from the Caroline Islands,

consisting mostly of Mitchell's, Ellis's, and De Peyster's groups, the Taswell's islands, also Gilbert's archipelago, Scarborough's range, and the Mulgrave islands: the two last form a group so closely adjoining on the west to the Carolines, that they can scarcely be considered otherwise than as a branch of that great archipelago. They comprise a vast number of small islands, in many cases mere rocks, of which the western division is termed the Radack, and the eastern the Ralick chain. Nearly all the islands forming the great Central Archipelago are populated to the limited resources which nature affords. The natives are generally described as friendly, courteous, and amiable, free from the thievish propensities and dissolute conduct which are common in many of the other islands. These are generally destitute of land animals, except rats, which are numerous, and often eaten as food.

The *Sandwich Islands*, now the most important of any in this quarter of the globe in relation to the civilised world, have long been known as a place of resort for whaling ships, and have also for some time past excited general interest on account of the important change taking place in the manners, customs, and character of the people. These islands are ten in number, of which eight only are inhabited. They form as it were a solitary cluster, far to the north and east of the principal ranges of this region.

Hawaii, or Owhyhee, the largest of this group, and also the largest island in Polynesia, occupies 4500 square miles of the 7000 constituting the area of the whole. The aspect of these islands is grand and sublime; some of the mountains rise to an alpine height, and have their summits wrapped in perpetual snow: those of Mouna Koah and Mouna

Rou, are the most elevated of any insular mountains in the world, being respectively 18,400, and 16,474 feet in height. Volcanoes are numerous in this group, and many of them in constant activity. The soil is exceedingly fertile, and yields abundantly the bread-fruit, sugar-cane, cocoa-nut, sweet potatoes, rice, &c. The natives are tall and robust, especially the chiefs, who are here, as in most of the other islands, a superior race: they had long evinced a strong desire to become acquainted with European arts and civilization, and in 1819, they renounced idolatry and burned their idols: this, and the circumstance of several of the natives having been educated in England, induced the missionary societies to send out ministers of the gospel to impart to them the truths of the Christian religion, and the arts of civilization: the most signal success has attended their exertions, and strong hopes may now be indulged that the people of these islands will, at no remote period, be entitled to take their place among the civilised nations of the earth. A large proportion of the population have been instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic: churches have been erected; the printing press has been for some years in operation, at which school books, the scriptures, newspapers, and various moral and religious periodicals are printed in the language of the country; the useful arts have been introduced, and a gradual improvement in the morals and manners of the people has taken place. The town of Honolulu, in the island of Oahu, contains about 6000 inhabitants, of which number upwards of 200 are English and Americans. Great commercial activity prevails here; many European and American ships, &c., are always in the port: a considerable number of small vessels also belong to the natives. Some of the houses of Honolulu

are built of stone; and hotels, boarding houses, a daily ordinary, billiards, and other amusements, strikingly testify the transportation of English habits into this remote and lately savage region.

The following table shows the area and population of the separate islands:

	Square Miles.	Population
Hawaii (Owhyhee).	4500	88,000
Maoi (Mowee).	600	22,000
Oahu (Wookoo).	520	23,000
Kauai, or Taueii (Aiooi)	520	15,000
Morakais (Morotoi)	170	4,000
Ransi (Lani)	100	2,500
Niihau	100	2,000
Kahurawu	60	600
Total	6570	157,100
Tawia and Morikiui (uninhabited).	420	

The *Marquesas* or *Washington*, called also the *Mechana Islands*, consists of two groups, of which the most eastern, long the only part known, is more properly the Marquesas Islands; they were first discovered in 1596, and after being long forgotten, were again discovered by Captain Cook. The more northerly group was first visited by Captain Ingraham of Boston in 1791, and in 1792 by the French navigator Marcland, who called them Revolution Islands; but the discovery of the former being prior, the name of Washington Islands has been generally recognized. They have also been called the Ingraham and the North Marquesas Islands. They are all mountainous, fertile, and well watered. Nature, in providing the people with the bread-fruit, the cocoa-nut, and the lemon, affords them a plentiful subsistence almost without labour. The men of these islands are

among the most finely formed of the known human race; their complexion is but little darker than that of Europeans, but is visible only in the youth, for the tattooing practised all over the Pacific Ocean is carried on to such a pitch, that the skin of an adult becomes the mere canvas of a picture. The tattooing is commenced at twelve or thirteen years, but it is not until thirty or thirty-five that the operation is finished; by that time their body is in general entirely covered with such devices as may from time to time strike their fancy. The women are handsome, and generally possess pleasing features, but at the same time, they have an air of boldness and effrontery, and hold virtue in very little estimation. The islands are divided among a number of independent chiefs and tribes, who are frequently at war with each other, which they carry on with the greatest ferocity. The missionaries have made some attempts to introduce Christianity and civilization, but, through heard with patience, their success has been but very trifling.

The *Society*, or *Leeward Islands*, are Raiatea, Huahine, Tahaa, Borabora, Manuila, or Lord Home's Island, Maunua, Tabai, and the Fenuara or Scilli Islands. This group was called the Society Islands by the discoverer, Captain Cook, in honour of the Royal Society, at whose suggestion the voyage of discovery was undertaken. They have a good soil and climate, but do not present any very striking distinctive character. On the five first named islands there are missionaries residing, who have effected an important change in the manners and character of the people. The Society and Georgian Islands are frequently described under the name of the former; the groups are, however, geographically, as well as politically, distinct.

The *Georgian*, or *Windward Islands* comprise Tahiti or Otahiti, Eimeo, Tabnaemanu, or Sir Charles Sander's Island, Tetuoroa, Meatica. These were discovered by Captain Wallis, who crossed the Pacific about 170 years ago, and subsequently by Captain Cook, who affixed the native name of Tahiti to the principal island of the group. This cluster of islands is about seventy miles to the eastward of the Society Islands; these two clusters have attracted perhaps more attention than any other in the Pacific Ocean. They are fruitful and beautiful islands, and present the first example of a people converted to Christianity in this quarter of the globe—an event accomplished by the labours of Christian missionaries, through a long series of discouragements and dangers. The people are now as much distinguished by their regard for religion and morality as they once were for idolatry and licentiousness, and are now making rapid advances in general knowledge and useful arts. Tahiti, the largest of the group, is about 108 miles in circuit, and has a population of about 1500. The interior rises into mountains, which, with the exception of those in the Sandwich Islands, are the most lofty in this region; trees and verdure clothe their sides, almost to the summit. The island is nearly an entire forest of bread-fruit, cocoa-nut, lemon, and other valuable trees, a few spots only being cleared for the cultivation of the yam. The fruits ripen at different times, according as the mountain slopes have a northern or southern exposure. Eimeo, the next in size to Tahiti, is chiefly distinguished as being still the centre of that European and Christian civilization which originated there. It contains the South Sea Academy, a printing office, and a cotton factory.

The entire population of these two groups of

islands (the Society and the Georgian) is calculated at the present time to be 70,000 ; but it is certain that at one period they must have far exceeded that number. • Captain Cook, indeed, estimates the population of Tahiti alone at 200,000. The devastations of disease, infanticide, frequent wars, human sacrifices, and the depopulating influence of vicious habits, have undoubtedly been the cause of this enormous decrease in the population ; and it is not irrationally supposed, even by the islanders themselves, that but for the humanising and meliorating influence of Christianity upon them, the inhabitants, at no distant period, would have been totally annihilated.

The *Pearl, Paumotu, Low Islands, and Dangerous Archipelago*, are the several names given to an almost numberless range of islets, extending east and south-east of the Georgian Islands ; some of them are thinly peopled, some entirely deserted, and some others alternately settled and abandoned. The natives are but little known, as the slender supplies to be obtained, and the dangerous nature of the navigation, have induced mariners to sail through them as quickly as possible. The Gambier Islands, five in number, and the most southern of this group, contain, according to Captain Beechey, about 1000 inhabitants ; they are all most determined thieves.

The *Palliser Islands* lie north-east from Tahiti. The principal is Anaa or Chain Island. The inhabitants were formerly notorious for their superstitious and vicious propensities, but through the influence of the missionaries they have renounced idolatry, destroyed their idols, and have become, at least in name, Christians. The language is radically the same as Tahiti.

Hervey's, or Cook's Island, situated nearly west

from the Georgian group, are small, low, and of coral formation; they are deficient in water, yet they are tolerably well-peopled and cultivated. The state of society very much resembles that of Tahiti, and the Christian missionaries have succeeded in converting a great number of the inhabitants to their faith. The principal islands of this group are Sharraia, Atutake, Rarotonga, Mauti, &c.

The *Austral* or *Raivairai Islands* are situated at from 400 to 600 miles south from Tahiti; they are small, and scattered at some distance from each other. The inhabitants are like those of Tahiti, and speak a similar language. Till within these few years, they were grossly ignorant and superstitious, but have been greatly changed, chiefly by the pious labours of native Christian teachers from Tahiti. The entire population of some of the islands have been baptised, and in all of them churches and schools have been established. This group comprises Raivaivai, Raroton, Rimatura, Rurutu, Tabuai, and Rapa.

The *Friendly Islands* are an extensive group, lying between New Caledonia and the Georgian Islands; they are reckoned at 150 in number, and in their most extensive sense, comprise the Navigator's, Tonga, Habaai, and Feejee Islands. The character of the native has been drawn in more flattering colours than that of almost any other people in the Pacific Ocean. The name given to them by Captain Cook expresses his opinion of their disposition. Subsequent visitors have, however, represented them as cruel and ferocious. The men are very muscular and broad shouldered, and the women often deficient in delicacy of form and feature, but many of both sexes present models of almost perfect beauty; and their expression is generally mild and agreeable. In some of the

islands the exertions of the missionaries have been eminently successful. In the Tonga and Habaii groups about 3000 children are instructed in the schools, and the church numbers upwards of 1500 communicants. In the Navigator's Island Christianity bids fair to obtain a steadfast footing among the people, and in Laquha or Logaba Island, one of the Feejees, idolatry has been entirely abolished by the labours of the missionaries.

The *Navigator's* or *Samoua Islands*, the northernmost of the Friendly Archipelago, are eight in number, divided into two clusters. They are fertile, well watered, and abound in poultry and hogs, and appear to be populous. The interior of the largest of these islands is elevated, and the rocks seem to exhibit marks of volcanic origin, but the mountains are clothed to the summit with lofty trees, and the wooded valleys beneath, watered by numberless streams and rills, present an enchanting landscape.

The *Feejee Islands*, lying south-east of the Navigator's group, are but imperfectly known. They are considerably larger than the latter, and are equally fertile and populous, and the people are considered more ferocious than any of the others. Pavo, or Tacanova, is upwards of fifty leagues in circuit: it belongs to the class of high islands, being traversed by mountain ridges, though several islands of the group are low, and encircled by coral rocks. Naviheelavoo and Mywoolaari are the next in dimensions to Tacanova.

The most southern of the Friendly Archipelago are the *Tonga Islands*, the principal of which are Tongataboo, Booa, and Armaanooka, called by Tasman, their first discoverer; Amsterdam, Middlebury, and Rotterdam. These islands, like the others of this range, are very fertile and populous.

The natives cultivate fifteen different varieties of bread-fruit, yams of several kinds, and other roots. The animals are hogs and dogs. In another group is Tefooa, a mountainous island, containing a volcano, which manifests some degree of activity.

Lefuga, or Lifuka, the principal of the Habai Islands, was long the residence of a chief, who held sway over the others. A mission has been successfully conducted here for some years. Vavaoo, Cocoa-nut Island, and Amargura, to the north of the Habai group, are all exceedingly fertile, producing bread-fruit and cocoa-nut trees in abundance. They are all inhabited.

Pitcairn's Island, a small detached spot, lying south-east from Tahiti, has attracted a remarkable degree of interest, in consequence of having been selected as the place of retreat of the mutineers of the *Bounty*, whose fate was for so many years unknown, and from the pleasing feelings excited on the discovery of their virtuous and amiable posterity a comparatively short time ago. A number of the natives, in consequence of the scanty supply of water in the island, emigrated to Tahiti, but being disappointed in their expectations, they returned to their former happy home. The latest published account represents their numbers to be about ninety individuals.

Kaster Island, called also Teafe, and Vaihoo, is the most eastern of the Polynesian range, and is about twenty miles in circuit. The natives are estimated to amount to about 1500. The males tattoo themselves so as to have the appearance of wearing brooches. This island was formerly celebrated for its gigantic busts, of which Captain Cook found only two remaining; they have now disappeared, a few heaps of rubbish only being left, to mark the spot they occupied.

The following is the mode of *tattooing* the skin, so common amongst most savage nations, and practised to a great extent in the South Sea Islands. The operation is performed by regular professors of the art, and is a very profitable occupation. The dye employed is the kernel of the candle-nut, called by the natives *tia'iri*, which is burnt to charcoal, and then mixed with oil. The tattooing-stick consists of a piece of sharp pointed bone, fastened to the end of a small stick. Another stick, somewhat heavier, is used for striking the other in the process of perforation. The figure or pattern to be tattooed is first carefully drawn upon the skin with a piece of charcoal, and the performer having immersed the point of the sharp bone in the colouring matter, which is a beautiful jet, strikes it smartly with the stick in his right hand, and thus inserts the edge into the flesh. This operation is attended with great suffering, and few of the natives can endure it so long as to have an entire figure finished at one sitting. The consequences of it, indeed, are frequently fatal. The chest is the part of the body most profusely tattooed, and the beauty and minuteness of the representations sometimes made are truly astonishing. Mr. Ellis remarks, "Every variety of figure is to be seen here. Cocoa-nut and bread-fruit trees, with convolvulus wreaths hanging round them, boys gathering the fruit, men engaged in battle, in manual exercise, triumphing over a fallen foe, or, as I have frequently seen, they are represented as carrying a human sacrifice to the temple. Every kind of animal—goats, dogs, fowls, and fish, may at times be seen on this part of the body; muskets, swords, pistols, clubs, spears, and other weapons of war, are also stamped on their arms or chest."

A U S T R A L I A .

AUSTRALIA, or New Holland, is situated in the Pacific Ocean, and forms the largest island in the known world. Lying between 10 degrees 30 minutes and 39 degrees of south latitude, and 113 degrees and 133 of east longitude, it forms an extent of land, which, from its geographical position, and its natural productions, abounds in interest both to the philosophical inquirer, and to all such as may wish to make it the place of their future residence. It extends in length from east to west 3000 miles; and in breadth from north to south 2000 miles, containing a superficial area of more than 3,000,000 square miles, with a coast line of 8000. In shape it is an irregular oval; appearing to be bounded for the most part by a ridge of steep mountains, of greater or less elevation, which extend around the coast, varying in distance from the shore, sometimes approaching within thirty miles of the sea, at other times extending back to perhaps four times that distance. The country behind this range is, with the exception of the New South Wales territory, and a part of the south east coast, a complete *terra incognita*; and from what has been observed on the south east shore, it may be inferred that it is a vast level plain; it would be a more rational inference, however, to suppose that the country consists of natural terraces or steppes, as in South Africa.

Australia has been divided into four principal parts, discovered at different periods, each possessed

of a different history, though all have been employed for the purposes of colonisation by the over-crowded population of Europe. These divisions are, New South Wales, or Eastern Australia, on the east; South Australia, in the centre; the Swan River Settlement, or Western Australia, on the West; and North Australia.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The colony of New South Wales is situated on the eastern coast of New Holland. This island was discovered by Don Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, a Spanish nobleman, in 1605-7. He appears to have made the land in the vicinity of Torres Straits, and named it *Terra del Espiritus Santo*; it accordingly got the name of Australia of the Holy Spirit; but from the number of Dutch navigators by whom it was visited, and whose voyages, if not earlier made, seem either to have been the earliest recorded, or the most generally made known, styled this extensive island New Holland. The Spanish monarch, at the period of this discovery by De Quiros, was too much occupied with the great acquisitions made to his foreign possessions by the splendid discoveries of the celebrated Christopher Columbus, to attend to the progress of eastern discovery, and additional portions of this hitherto unknown region of the globe were successively made known by the spirit of commercial enterprise, or the good fortune of adventurous mariners. The enterprising Dampier was the first Englishman by whom the coast of New Holland was visited. Dampier received his knowledge of navigation among the buccaneers of America, and having made a cruise against the Spaniards, he doubled Cape Horn from the east,

stretched towards the equator, and fell in with this extensive island. He made an accurate survey of its shores, and on his return to England, he presented it to the Earl of Pembroke, and by this means gained the patronage of King William III.

But the celebrated Captain James Cook was the first individual who gave the most extensive information, and dispelled many illusions regarding this extensive region during his first and third voyage, in the years 1770 and 1777. The eastern coast was almost entirely unexplored previous to his visiting its shores; but after a careful examination, he was satisfied of the existence of a vast island, almost equal in extent to the whole continent of Europe, which he made known to the world.

The *climate* of this colony, particularly in the island districts, is highly salubrious, although the heats in summer are sometimes excessive, the thermometer occasionally rising in the shade to ninety, and even to a hundred degrees and upwards of Fahrenheit. This however, happens only during the hot winds; and these do not prevail upon an average more than three or four days in the year. The seasons of New South Wales are the opposite of those in England—January being the middle of summer and July of Winter; the spring and autumn are brief but well defined; the winter of a bracing coolness.

During the summer months of December, January, and February, the mean heat is about 80 degrees at noon. This it must be admitted, is a degree of heat that would be highly oppressive to Englishmen, were it not that the sea breeze sets in regularly about nine o'clock in the morning, and blows with considerable force from the north-east till about six or seven o'clock in the evening. It is succeeded during the night by the land breeze from

the mountains which varies from west south-west to west. In very hot days the sea-breeze often veers round to the north and blows a gale. In this case it continues with considerable violence, frequently for a day or two, and is thus succeeded, not by the regular land breeze, but by a cold southerly squall. The hot winds blow from the north-west, and doubtless imbibe their heat from the immense tract of country which they traverse. While they prevail the sea and land breezes entirely cease. They seldom however continue for more than twelve hours at a time, and are always superseded by a cold southerly gale, generally accompanied with rain. The thermometer then sinks sometimes as low as sixty degrees, and a variation of temperature of from twenty to thirty degrees takes place in half an hour. These southerly gales usually last at this season from twelve to twenty-four hours, and then give way to the regular sea and land breezes.

During the summer months violent storms of thunder and lightning are frequent, and the heavy falls of rain which take place on these occasions, tend considerably to refresh the country, of which the verdure in all but low and moist situations entirely disappears. At this season the most unpleasant part of the day is the interval which elapses between the cessation of the land breeze, and the setting in of the sea. This happens generally between six and eight o'clock in the morning, when the thermometer is upon an average at about seventy-two degrees. During this interval the sea is as smooth as glass, and not a zephyr is found to disport even among the topmost boughs of the loftiest trees.

The three autumn months are March, April, and May. The weather in March is generally very unsettled. This month may, in fact, be considered

the rainy season, and has been more fertile in floods than any other of the year. The thermometer varies during the day about fifteen degrees, being at daylight as low as from fifty-five to sixty degrees, and at noon as high as from seventy to seventy-five degrees. The sea and land breezes at this time become very feeble, although they occasionally prevail during the whole year. The usual winds from the end of March to the beginning of September are from south to west.

The weather in the commencement of April is frequently showery, but towards the middle it gradually becomes more settled, and towards the conclusion perfectly clear and serene. The thermometer at the beginning of the month varies from seventy-two to seventy-four degrees at noon; and from the middle to the end gradually declines to sixty-six, and sometimes to sixty degrees. In the morning it is as low as fifty-two degrees, and fires become in consequence general throughout the colony.

The weather in the month of May is truly delightful. The atmosphere is perfectly cloudless, and the mornings and evenings become with the advance of the month more chilly, and render a good fire a highly comfortable and charming guest. Even during the middle of the day the most violent exercise may be taken without inconvenience. The thermometer at sun-rise is under fifty degrees, and seldom above sixty degrees at noon.

The three winter months are June, July, and August. During this interval the mornings and evenings are very chilly, and the nights excessively cold. Hoar frosts are frequent, and become the more severe the further you advance into the interior. Ice half an inch thick is found at the distance of twenty miles from the coast. Very little

rain falls at this season, but the dews are very heavy when it does not freeze, and tend considerably to preserve the young crops from the effects of drought. Fogs too are frequent and dense in low damp situations, and on the banks of the rivers. The mean temperature at day-light is from forty to forty-five degrees, and at noon from fifty-five to sixty degrees.

The Spring months are September, October, and November. In the beginning of September, the fogs still continue, the nights are cold, but the days clear and pleasant. Towards the close of this month, the cold begins very sensibly to moderate. Light showers occasionally prevail, accompanied with thunder and lightning. The thermometer at the beginning of the month is seldom above sixty degrees at noon, but towards the end frequently rises to seventy degrees.

In October there are also occasional showers, but the weather upon the whole is clear and pleasant. The days gradually become warmer, and the lightning, and north-west winds are to be apprehended. The sea and land breezes again resume their full sway. The thermometer at sun-rise varies from sixty to sixty-five degrees, and at noon is frequently up to eighty degrees.

In November the weather may be again called hot. Dry parching winds prevail as the month advances, and squalls of thunder and lightning with rain or hail. The thermometer at day-light is seldom under sixty-five degrees, and frequently at noon, rises to eighty, eighty-four, and even to ninety degrees.

Such is the temperature throughout the year at Port Jackson. In the highland districts to the eastward of the mountains, the thermometer is upon an average five degrees lower in the morning, and the

same number of degrees higher at noon throughout the winter season, but during the summer-months, it is five degrees higher at all hours of the day. On the mountains themselves, and in the country to the westward of them, the climate, in consequence of their superior elevation, is much more temperate. Heavy falls of snow take place during the winter, and remain sometimes for many days on the summits of the hills; but in the valleys the snow immediately dissolves. The frosts too are much more severe, and the winters are of longer duration. All the seasons indeed are more distinctly marked to the westward of the mountains, and bear a much stronger resemblance to the corresponding ones in this country.

From the foregoing account of the state of the weather and temperature during the various seasons of the year, it will be seen that the climate of New South Wales is upon the whole highly salubrious and delightful. If the summer should be considered a little too hot for the British constitution (which we will show that it is not,) it will be remembered that the extreme heats, which have been noticed as happening during the north-west winds, are of but short continuance; and that the sea and land breezes which prevail at this season in an almost uninterrupted succession, moderate the temperature so effectually, that even new-comers are but little incommoded by it, and the old residents experience no inconvenience from it whatever. The sea breeze indeed is not so sensibly felt in the interior, as on the coast, by reason of the great extent of forest which it has to traverse, before the inhabitants of the inland districts can receive the benefit of it. This circumstance not only diminishes its force, but also deprives it in a great measure, of that refreshing coolness which it imparts, when

inhaled fresh from the bosom of the ocean. The heat consequently in the interior, particularly in low situations, is much more intense than on the coast; but by way of compensation for the advantage which in this respect the districts in the vicinity of the sea possess over the inland ones, these latter are from the same causes, that impede the approach of the sea breeze, exempt from the sudden and violent variations of temperature which are occasioned by the southerly winds, and are without doubt the reason why pulmonary affections are so much more prevalent in Sydney than in the interior. The hot season, however, which is undoubtedly the most unhealthy part of the year, does not, as will have been perceived, continue above four months. The remaining eight possess a temperature so highly moderate and congenial to the human constitution, that the climate of this colony would upon the whole, appear to justify the glowing enthusiasm of those who have ventured to call it the Montpellier of the world. So much is this the case, that invalids are now conveyed from India to New South Wales, instead of being subjected to a tedious voyage to Europe, or a laborious over-land journey to the valleys of the Himmalah.

Although New South Wales is not subjected to the periodical showers of the tropics, a large quantity of rain falls throughout the year; hitherto the colony has been visited by a drought about every twelve years: during the seasons in which these happen, little or no rain falls. It is however more than probable that as the country becomes cleared and cultivated, such lamentable visitations will be less frequent.

Abdominal and pulmonic complaints are the two prevalent diseases. The abdominal complaints are confined principally to dysentery. This disorder is

most common among the poorer classes and new comers. In these it is generally intimately connected with scurvy, and in both cases it is for the most part greatly aggravated by the excessive use of spirituous liquors, to which the mass of the colonists are unfortunately addicted. The pulmonic affections are generally contracted at an early period by the youth of both sexes, and are occasioned by the great and sudden changes of temperature already noticed. They are not, however, accompanied with that violent inflammatory action which distinguishes them in this country, but proceed slowly and gradually, till from neglect they terminate in phthisis. They are said to bear a strong affinity to the complaint of the same nature which prevails at the island of Madeira; and it is remarkable, that in both these colonies a change of air affords the only chance of restoration to the natives; whereas, foreigners labouring under phthisis, upon their arrival in either of these places, find almost instantaneous relief.

There are no infantile diseases whatever. The measles, hooping-cough, and small-pox, are entirely unknown. Some few years, indeed, before the settlement of the colony, the small-pox committed the most dreadful ravages among the aborigines. This exterminating scourge is said to have been introduced by Captain Cook and his crew; and many of the contemporaries of those who fell victims to it lived for many years after, and the deep furrows which remained in their countenances showed how narrowly they had escaped the fell destroyer. The recollection of this dreadful malady will long survive in the traditionary songs of the simple people. The consternation which it excited continues as fresh in their minds, as if it had been an occurrence of but yesterday, although the gene-

ration which witnessed its horrors has now entirely passed away. The moment one of them was seized with it was the signal for abandoning him to his fate. Brothers deserted their brothers, children their parents, and parents their children : and in some of the caves of the coast heaps of decaying bones still indicate the spot, where the lifeless sufferers were left to expire, not so much perhaps from the violence of the disease, as from the want of sustenance.

This fatal instance of the inveteracy of the small-pox, when once introduced into the colony, has not been without its counterpoising benefit. It induced the local government to adopt proper measures for avoiding the propagation of a similar contagion among the colonists. The vaccine matter was introduced with this view many years back : but as all the children in the colony were immediately inoculated, it was again lost from the want of a sufficient number of subjects to afford a sufficient supply of fresh virus, and for many years afterwards, every effort that was made for its re-introduction proved abortive. Through the indefatigable exertions, however, of Dr. Burke of the Mauritius, the colonists are again in possession of this inestimable blessing, and there can be no doubt that proper precautions will be taken to prevent them from being again deprived of it.

A few extracts from credible authors will prove to the reader that what we have here stated, regarding the climate and diseases, is no exaggeration.

Dr. Lang, who has for many years resided in New South Wales, says "The colony lies between the latitude of the Canary Islands, which, from their fine climate, were called the Fortunate Islands, and that of the Azores, the most mild and equable

on the earth, the capital, Sydney, is in the latitude of Madeira, the fineness of the climate of which every one knows.

"The great extent of coast line towards the Pacific Ocean, and the various elevation of different parts of the interior, insure a considerable variety of climate in the colony.

"In the high districts, snow, which is never seen in the lowlands of the colony, is frequent in winter, though it seldom lies long on the ground, and the cold during the night is often severe.

"From the first of March to the first of November, the climate of New South Wales—which throughout the whole year, is at least equal, if not superior, to that of any other country on the globe—is peculiarly delightful. The sky is seldom clouded; and day after day for weeks together, the sun looks down in unveiled beauty. In ordinary seasons refreshing showers are not unfrequent; but although there are no periodical rains in the colony, it sometimes rains as heavily as it does within the tropics. It seldom freezes in Sydney, and never snows; fires are requisite in the winter months in the mornings and evenings.

"The Australian summer extends from the first of November to the first of March; during this period the heat is considerable, but rarely oppressive; the thermometer seldom rising higher in Sydney than 75 deg. of Fahrenheit. There is generally a sea breeze during the day in the summer months, commencing about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and dying away about four. This breeze which usually blows pretty fresh, and in the immediate vicinity of the ocean, has so powerful an

* There was snow in Sydney, June 17, 1836.—the first that had ever been seen in that part of the colony.

influence on the temperature of the coast, that it is generally some degrees hotter at Parramatta during the summer months, and colder in winter than it is at Sydney. But although it is occasionally hotter in the summer than the average temperature, I have just mentioned, the mornings and evenings are uniformly delightfully cool.

"The most singular phenomenon in the meteorology of New South Wales is the occasional prevalence of hot winds from the north west ward. These winds occur on an average about four times every summer, and blow from four to thirty-six hours each time, the thermometer generally standing at from 90 to 100 deg. of Fahrenheit.

"One Sunday, the month of February 1824, I had to perform divine service twice during the hottest part of the day; but I confess I experienced very little inconvenience from the heat—less indeed than I have felt in a crowded church in Scotland. This is to be ascribed to the extreme dryness of the atmosphere."

A young gentleman, bred to the legal profession, writes a series of letters to his friends at home, which were published under the title of "Three Years of a Settler's Life," thus speaks of the climate at two different times.

"The climate is very agreeable—rather warm in the heat of the day; but there is something in it that does not affect one as at home. I walked two miles one day to church, and back, then rode to the other farm to dinner when the thermometer stood 144 in the sun, and 95 in the shade; yet I am sure I have felt more inconvenience at home. The evenings are always comfortable; and except at Sydney one night, I never saw a musquito. I am in most perfect health—quite comfortable.

"The winter here is not cold (a good deal like

your March weather at home) up here, and not near so cold down the country; the only cold place is near the Snowy Mountains, where the snow is perpetual, and the wind from that quarter brings a kind of snow storm perhaps once a winter to the neighbourhood; the usual winter weather is a frost, which is off by ten o'clock, and then a fine day, except it be rain, and that is not often; if it rain for two days together, oh! the country will be drowned, and a second flood is expected, for it is a very dry country generally speaking."

"The state of the weather and atmosphere were truly delicious and exhilarating. The air was cool, fresh, and pure—quite a luxury to breathe it; the atmosphere clear as crystal; the sky intensely blue, and the sun shining with brilliancy and warmth, whilst a gentle breeze tempered the fervency of his rays—it was enjoyment to live in such a climate. In England we exist—here we feel we are alive.

"The weather has been beautiful—clear, cool, and bracing. To-night is colder than I have felt it for some time past, but I sit comfortably in the open tent. Last night I did not wear a jacket from the time we encamped. The mornings and evenings are now delightful.

"The nights and mornings are, however, sharp, though in the middle of the day it is very warm. We have had delightful weather; nothing can exceed the beauty of the mornings and evenings just now, and in the evenings especially, with the sun slanting through the trees and up the glades of the bush, the effect is most pleasing. I felt this especially the night we arrived at Mr. Murray's, where I found too so many other pleasing rural objects; the cattle and sheep, with their calves and lambs, returning to their folds, filling the air with their

voices—workmen returning from the fields—poultry and other birds and beasts retiring to their roost, gave altogether an impression of peace and repose, which was most gratifying.”—*A Month in the Bush*, at three separate stages of the author's journey south, in April and May.

Lieutenant Breton, who made a tour of the colony says:—“I rode fifty miles a day in the hot wind, without feeling more inconvenience than in a hot day in England, and at night, I have slept in the open air, my saddle for a pillow, the breeze dancing, the firmament studded with innumerable bright stars, shining sweetly through the deep blue of that cloudless sky, and never yet experienced any ill effects from it; indeed, in a climate like that of New South Wales I question if any thing is to be feared from night exposure.”

• “The climate of New South Wales, confining ourselves of course to the settled portions of that country, although varying considerably in different districts, is altogether highly agreeable and salubrious, and is particularly favourable to children: scarcely any of those diseases to which they are so subject here, and which yearly carry off so many thousands, being at all known there. Neither is it less favourable to all the other stages of human existence. In summer the heat is not more oppressive than in England, and in winter the cold is much less severe, snow rarely falling but in the remote inland districts, which are situated at a great distance above the level of the sea; and even there, excepting on the highest peaks of the hills, it lies but for a short time. In the lower district, where it is hotter, the air is tempered by a cool and delightful sea breeze, which blows steadily and regularly throughout the day, and is succeeded at night by an equally steady and grate-

ful breeze from the land ; in short, altogether the climate of New South Wales is one of the most delightful and healthful on the face of the globe. The bright and sunny skies of Italy are here rivalled, and all the luxuries of the tropics produced, without the intolerable warmth of these sultry regions. We have already pointed out two or three contrarieties between New South Wales and Great Britain ; another is to be found in the temperature of the different winds, that from the south being there the coldest, and that from the north the warmest. This naturally arises from its geographical position, from its being situated about as near to the south pole, as we are to the north. The degree of cold, and accumulations of ice and snow, being equally great in both of these extremities of the earth, it follows that the winds from the south must be there the coldest.”—*Chambers*.

R. M. Martin Esq. in his *Colonies of the British Empire*, says :—“The seasons of New South Wales are the opposite of those of England—January being the middle of summer, and July of winter. The summer extends from the first of November to the first of April ; the spring and autumn are

coolness, with occasional frosts at Sydney, and snow in the interior. The spring months are September, October, and November ; the summer, December, January, and February ; autumn, March, April and May ; winter, June, July, and August. March, April and August, are generally considered the rainy months. The average temperature of spring is 65.5, of summer 72., of autumn, 66., and of winter 55. The barometrical pressure is about 29.94219 inches, and the average thermometer 64 F.

The climate of Sydney may be in some measure judged of by the following meteorological table.

	Barometer 62 ft. above the sea.	Hygrometer.	Radiator.	THERM.			Winds.	WEATHER.				
				Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.		Days fine.	Days rain.	Stormy.	Cloudy.	Stormy and Cloudy.
Jan. ...	Max. 30.300	68	101	91	75½	60	S. S. E.	15	4	12	...	...
	Min. 29.430	9	63	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Feb. ...	Max. 30.300	75	94	90	74	58	E. S. E.	20	4	5	...	...
	Min. 29.680	35	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	Max. 30.490	74	83	83	71½	60	E.	19	10	2	...	...
	Min. 29.580	18	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	Max. 30.458	77	87	83	70	57	W.	21	6	...	3	...
	Min. 27.772	40	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May ...	Max. 30.442	79	66	73	61½	50	W.	23	3	...	5	...
	Min. 29.602	26	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June...	Max. 30.350	78	67	62	52	42	S. W.	20	1	...	9	...
	Min. 29.290	25	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July ...	Max. 30.315	76	59	60	54	48	S. W.	17	8	...	...	...
	Min. 29.840	27	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aug. ...	Max. 30.248	78	67	66	55	44	S. W.	14	...	...	...	1
	Min. 29.488	29	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sept.	Max. 30.380	79	83	67	49½	42	N. E.	20	...	...	...	2
	Min. 29.520	18	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oct. ...	Max. 30.200	80	86	82	69½	57	N. E.	21	3	...	...	2
	Min. 29.300	20	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nov.	Max. 30.220	76	84	91	74	57	E. & W.	31	...	...	...	...
	Min. 29.860	10	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dec. ...	Max. 30.110	72	96	87	75	63	N. E.	20	...	10	...	1
	Min. 29.530	30	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Year...	Max. 30.490	80	101	91	...	28	...	241	48	54	17	7
	Min. 29.290	9	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

"In Sydney the thermometer is rarely below 40; in Parramatta, it is frequently down to 27 in winter. Of course as the land rises above the level of the ocean, a difference of temperature is

felt; the winter at Bathurst, where the luxury of snow is in its season enjoyed, being much colder than on the sea shore; while the difference of latitude between, for instance, Sydney in 34 degrees, and the parallel of Moreton Bay, in that of 28, is considerable.

“During the summer months, a regular sea breeze sets in daily, and refreshes the inhabitants along the coast, who besides are not so much exposed to the hot winds as those residing in the interior. These winds have never yet been satisfactorily accounted for. They blow from the north-west three or four times every summer, like a strong current of air from a heated furnace, raising the thermometer to 100 degrees F. in the shade, and 125 when exposed to their influence. They seldom last more than a few days, and are cleared off by a thunder storm. But the rise of the mercury in the thermometer does not indicate the effect of the weather on the animal frame: the *benignity* of the atmosphere is of far more importance in this respect, for I have felt a much greater degree of oppression in Calcutta with the thermometer at 80, and the atmosphere surcharged with moisture, than in New South Wales, when the mercury was at 125 degrees, and the air of a parching dryness. Indeed in the latter country I have ridden fifty miles a day with but little fatigue, while under the temperature of Bengal I found the slightest motion exhausting. With respect to the origin of the hot winds, some suppose they arise from vast burning forests in the interior; but they are more likely to owe their extreme heat and siccidity to passing over a great extent of arid and heated country, which deprives them of all moisture.”

The prevailing directions of the winds at Sydney are thus indicated:—

	N.	N.N.E.	N.E.	E.N.E.	E.	E.S.E.	S.E.	S.S.E.	S. by E.	S.	S. by W.
Morning	4	..	12	..	4	1	9	8	1	29	3
Noon.	7	11	129	11	3	2	45	27	53	16	2
Evening	23	11	109	5	8	5	70	13	4	15	4
	S.S.W.	S.W.	W.S.W.	W. by S.	W.	W. by N.	W.N.W.	N.W.	N.N.W.	N. by W.	
Morning	8	109	42	4	118	2	6	4	1	..	
Noon.	11	25	5	2	10	..	2	16	8	..	
Evening	8	45	3	1	8	..	4	19	5	2	

“The salubrity of New South Wales is proverbial. Of a community of 1200 persons, only five or six have been known to be sick at a time; and at some of the military stations, seven years have elapsed without the loss of a man. As an illustration of the climate I may here remark that, at Parramatta, I have, on a winter's morning, eaten frozen milk under an orange tree, from which I have gathered the ripe and ripening fruit. Old people arriving in the colony from Europe, have suddenly found themselves restored to much of the hilarity of youth, and I have seen several persons upwards of 100 years of age. One was an old woman living as a servant at a public house, near Mr. Blaxland's, on the Sydney and Parramatta road; she was said to be 125 years of age, and yet did her daily work.”

“The salubrity of the seasons is evidenced by.

the health of the inhabitants. They are liable to few diseases, and those which do occur, are represented as in every three instances out of four, the result of moral causes. Excess in the use of animal food, and of ardent spirits, are there, as everywhere else, the great gateway opened by the hand of man for the entrance of disease and death. Temperance both in eating and drinking will be found by the emigrant the most effectual means for the preservation of health, while excessive indulgence, especially in the latter, is more likely than even at home to undermine the constitution, and to blast the prospects with more fearful and fatal rapidity.

"One of the Medical Boards of London transmitted a series of questions with a view to ascertain the average of human life in Australia, but the colony cannot yet furnish sufficient data for this purpose. There cannot yet be any native of European descent more than fifty years of age; and as to the adults which have arrived, whether free emigrants or convicts, there have been too many disturbing causes to enable us to arrive at any accurate result. There can be no doubt, that for any number of children born in each, the probabilities of human life are higher in the colony than in Great Britain; but fewer would reach extreme old age in the former than in the latter. Here the lamp of life burns bright and strong in its own pure air, and is extinguished without the long feeble flickering which characterises the protracted duration of helpless senility."—*Dr. Lang.*

The reverend gentleman again says, "The salubrity of the climate of New South Wales is indicated by the general health of the colonists; the diseases which actually occur being, in at least three cases out of every four, the result of excess and dissipation, rather than of those natural ills

that flesh is heir to in every country under the sun. Excess in the use of animal and other stimulating food, is a frequent source of disease in the colony; it is the path pursued unwittingly by many an individual who slowly and unconsciously undermines his own constitution, and at length lays himself open to the fatal attacks of acute disease. For my own part, I am inclined to believe that the probabilities of life, for any number of children born in the colony, are higher than for a similar number born in England.

“Persons of temperate habits, who have passed the meridian of life before their arrival, are doubtless likely to live longer in the colony than they would have done in England. Individual cases are certainly no rule to judge by; but I may be permitted to mention the singular case of an old man of the name of Wright, who had been several years in the colony, and who died, some time ago, in the Benevolent Asylum in Sydney, at 105 years of age.”

Mr. Cunningham, author of “Two Years in New South Wales,” says—

“The feelings from heat here are much the same as in England, when the thermometer stands twenty or thirty degrees lower, and the cold is felt in the same ratio; this is in consequence of the dry state of the air, &c. The average of the thermometer in summer is seventy, and in winter forty-eight degrees.”

“We have here a climate of surpassing salubrity; a clear, dry atmosphere as yet unknown to have been tainted with the breath of pestilence. In the height of summer we have our hot winds, but these are of short duration, seldom above two days at a time, and oftener under six hours, and are sure harbingers of a succeeding squall, which envelopes,

for the moment, the town and all its concerns in a volume of impalpable sand, but which scours the atmosphere of every thing noxious, and restores afresh the predominating serenity."—*Carmichael*.

"The plain of Bathurst is upwards of 2100 feet above the level of the sea, an elevation which compensates for ten degrees of latitude, the vegetation of Bathurst being exactly similar to that of Van Dieman's Land, ten degrees farther to the south. This elevation is remarkably conducive to the general health of the district, Bathurst being unquestionably the Montpelier of New South Wales."—*Martin*.

We are informed that no more than two persons died at Bathurst in twelve years; and only two in four years at the penal settlement of Moreton Bay, considered the hottest and most unhealthy part of the colony. One only was in the hospital in six months, out of 1200 convicts and soldiers, and these the worst months for disease; a state of health beyond comparison higher than in this country. These are from the official reports of Captain Clunie, of the 17th regiment, who further says—

"In point of climate, Moreton Bay, being further to the northward, must, on the whole, be warmer than Sydney; and, although we have no hot winds here, the thermometer ranges, during the summer, from 80 to 100; but I have seldom felt it so oppressive as in India; and the nights are generally cool and pleasant. In winter, except at our highest station, ice is hardly ever seen; the mornings and evenings, however, are generally very chilly, and for several months constant fires are agreeable. At this season the climate may be considered as delightful."

"As a general observation, I may say of the

climate of New South Wales, that it is undoubtedly healthy; and an important advantage is, that the invalid, by removing from one district to another, may select a climate according to the temperature he requires.

"It is not less peculiar in this respect, than it is in its animal and vegetable productions, as situations are here enjoyed with health and pleasure, which any where else would be considered inevitable destruction, or hazardous to human life. And although the vicissitudes of the thermometer from heat to cold, and of the barometer from clear weather to foul, are frequent and sudden, they are not succeeded by the same baneful consequences to the human body as in other countries; nor are these changes followed by epidemic or contagious diseases, which as yet cannot be said to have appeared."—*Breton*.

The particular account we have here given of the climate of New South Wales as affecting the health of its inhabitants, is applicable in a striking degree to the soil; the one being found mutually to act and re-act upon the other.

Soil.—The colony of New South Wales possesses every variety of soil; from the sandy heath, and the cold hungry clay, to the fertile loam, and the deep vegetable mould. For the distance of five or six miles from the coast, the land is in general extremely barren, being a poor hungry sand, thickly studded with rocks. A few miserable, stunted groves, and a dwarf underwood, are the richest productions of the best parts of it; whilst the rest never gives birth to a tree at all, and is only covered with low flowering shrubs, whose infinite diversity, however, and extraordinary beauty, render this wild heath the most interesting part of the country for the botanist, and make even the less scientific

beholder forget the nakedness and the sterility of the scene.

Beyond this barren waste, which thus forms a girdle to the coast, the country suddenly begins to improve. The soil changes to a thin layer of vegetable mould, resting on a stratum of yellow clay, which is again supported by a deep bed of schistus. The trees of the forest are here of the most stately dimensions. Full sized gums and iron barks, along side of which the loftiest trees in this country would appear as pigmies, with the buff-wood tree, or as it is generally termed, the forest oak, which is of much humbler growth, are the usual timber. The forest is extremely thick, but there is little or no underwood. A poor scur grass, which is too effectually shaded from the rays of the sun to be possessed of any nutritive or fattening properties, shoots up in the intervals. This description of country, with a few exceptions, however, which deserve not to be particularly noticed, forms another girdle of about ten miles in breadth; so that, generally speaking, the colony, for about sixteen miles into the interior, may be said to possess a soil which has naturally no claim to fertility, and will require all the skill and industry of its owners to render it even tolerably productive.

At this distance, however, the aspect of the country begins rapidly to improve. The forest is less thick, and the trees, in general, are of another description; the iron barks, yellow gums, and forest oaks disappearing, and the stringy barks, blue gums, and box trees generally usurping their place. When you advance about four miles further into the interior, you are at length gratified with the appearance of a country truly beautiful. An endless variety of hill and dale, clothed in the most luxuriant herbage, and covered with bleating

flocks and lowing herds, at length indicate that you are in regions fit to be inhabited by civilized man. The soil has no longer the stamp of barrenness. A rich loam, resting on a substratum of fat red clay, several feet in depth, is found on the tops of the highest hills, which in general do not yield in fertility to the valleys. The timber, strange as it may appear, is of inferior size, though still of the same nature; viz., blue gum, box, and stringy bark. There is no underwood, and the number of trees upon an acre do not, upon an average, exceed thirty. They are, in fact, so thin that a person may gallop without difficulty in every direction. Coursing the kangaroo is a favourite amusement of the colonists, who generally pursue this animal, at full speed, on horse-back, and frequently manage, notwithstanding its swiftness, to be up at the death, so trifling are the impediments occasioned by the forest.

The above general description, may be applied with tolerable accuracy, to the whole tract of country which lies between this space and the Nepean river. The plains, however, on the banks of this river, which are in many places of considerable extent, are of far greater fertility, being a rich vegetable mould, many feet in depth, and have, without doubt, been gradually formed by depositions from it, during the periods of its inundations. These plains gradually enlarge themselves, until you arrive at the junction of the Nepean with the Hawkesbury, on each side of which they are commonly from a mile to a mile and half in breadth. The banks of this latter river are of still greater fertility than the banks of the former, and may vie in this respect with the far-famed banks of the Nile. The same acre of land has been known to produce, in the course of one year, fifty bushels of wheat and a hundred of maize. The settlers have

never any occasion for manure, since the slimy depositions from the river effectually counteract the exhaustion that would otherwise be produced by incessant crops. The timber on the banks of these rivers is for the most part apple tree, which is very beautiful, and bears, in its foliage and shape, a striking resemblance to the English oak. Its wood, however, is of no value, except for firewood, and for the immense quantity of potash which might be made from it. The blue gum and stringy bark are also very common on these flooded lands, and of the best description. The banks of the Hawkesbury formerly produced cedar, but that has of late years entirely disappeared.

The banks of the rivers, and indeed the whole tract of country (generally speaking,) which we have been describing, with the exception of the barren waste in the vicinity of the coast, are, to use the colonial term, located, that is, either granted away to individuals, or attached as commons to the cultivated districts. But there are many unappropriated tracts of land within the immediate precincts of Port Jackson, some of which are particularly adapted to the purposes of colonization.

Of these, "the Cow Pastures" rank first in point of proximity. This tract of land has been reserved for the use of the wild cattle; although these animals have for many years nearly disappeared, either from having found an outlet into the interior, through the surrounding mountains, or, what is a still more probable conjecture, from the exterminating excursions of the numerous poor settlers, who have farms in the neighbourhood, and who, considering their general poverty, it is easy to believe, would not suffer the want of animal food, so long as they could take their dogs and guns, and

kill a cow or calf at their option. These wild cattle were the progeny of a few tame ones which strayed away from the settlement shortly after the period of its foundation, and were not discovered till about fifteen years afterwards, when they had multiplied to several thousands. On their discovery they immediately attracted the attention of his majesty's ministers; and orders were despatched from England, prohibiting the governor and his successors from granting away the land on which the cattle had fixed themselves. This they soon overspread, and on the occasion of the severe droughts that were experienced throughout the colony in the years 1813, 14, and 15, great numbers of them perished from the want of water and pasturage. Where thousands then existed, a few years afterwards there were scarcely hundreds to be met with, and these chiefly consisted of bulls. A cow or calf was rarely to be met with. There can, consequently, be very little doubt that they disappeared in the manner conjectured, and that their numbers were reduced by the depredations of the poorer settlers. This is one of the most fertile tracts of land in the colony, about thirty miles distant from Sydney. It contains about one hundred thousand acres of good land, a considerable portion of which is well watered, and equal to any on the banks of the river Hawkesbury.

The next considerable tract of land, is the district called the Five Islands, or Illawarra. It commences at the distance of about forty miles to the southward of Sydney, and extends to Shoal-Haven river. This tract of land lies between the coast and a high range of hills which terminate at the north side abruptly in the sea, and form its northern and western boundary; the ocean is its eastern boundary, and Shoal-Haven river its south-

ern. The range that surrounds this district on the north, is a branch of the Blue Mountains. Those parts which are situated near Shoal-Haven river are highly eligible for agricultural purposes; since this river is navigable for about twenty miles into the country for vessels of seventy or eighty tons burthen; a circumstance which holds out to future colonists the greatest facilities for the cheap and expeditious conveyance of their produce to market. The land on the banks of this river is of the same nature, and possesses equal fertility with those on the banks of the Hawkesbury. There are several streams in different parts of this district, which issue from the mountains behind, and afford an abundant supply of pure water. In many places there are extensive prairies of unparalleled richness, entirely free from timber, and, consequently, prepared by the hand of nature for the immediate reception of the ploughshare. The soil is in general a deep fat vegetable mould. The surface of the country is thinly timbered, with the exception of the mountain which bounds it on the northward and southward. This is covered with a thick brush, but is nevertheless extremely fertile up to the very summit, and peculiarly adapted, both from its eastern aspect and mild climate, for the cultivation of the vine. The extent of this large tract of country, which has never been accurately surveyed, is not precisely known; but it without doubt contains several hundred thousand acres, including the banks of Shoal-Haven river. These produce a great abundance of fine cedar, and other highly valuable timber.

The country to the westward of the Blue Mountains ranks most in contiguity to Sydney, and claims pre-eminence not so much from any superiority of soil, as from its amazing extent and great

diversity of climate. These mountains, where the road previous to 1819 had been made over them, are fifty-eight miles in breadth. The road which thus traversed these mountains was by no means difficult for waggons until they arrived at the pass which forms the descent into the low country. There it became exceedingly steep and dangerous. A communication of easy access, however, was discovered, and opened to this delightful country beyond the Blue Mountains, running through lands of the very best description. The colonists are indebted for this acquisition to their resources to the exertions of Mr. Thrasby, a large land and stock holder, many years resident in New South Wales. He was on the whole occupied fifteen days; his progress being retarded for several days from several of his party falling sick, and from the badness of the weather; but by this delay he had a better opportunity of examining the country on each side of his route. In a letter to one of his friends, he says:—"I have no hesitation in saying that we have a country fit for any and every purpose; where fine woolled sheep may be increased to any extent, in a climate peculiarly congenial to them. Ere long you will hear of a route being continued to the southward as far as Twofold Bay, and so on further in succession through a country as much superior to the Cow Pastures, as that now enviable district is to the land contiguous to Sydney; and where our herds, our flocks, and our cultivation may unlimitedly increase at an inconsiderable distance from the great and grand essential in a young colony—water carriage!" For this important discovery, Mr. Thrasby received the thanks of the governor, and a grant of "one thousand acres of land in any part of the country discovered by himself, that he may choose to select."

The elevation of Mount York, the highest of the Blue Mountains, above the level of the sea, is only 3200 feet, and it is imagined that the general height of the range cannot exceed 2000 feet. For the first two or three miles they are tolerably well clothed with timber, and produce occasionally some middling pasture; but beyond this they are excessively barren, and are covered with a thick brush, interspersed here and there with a few miserable stunted gums. They bear a striking similarity, in respect both to their soil and productions, to the barren wastes on the coast of Port Jackson. They are very rocky, but they want granite, the distinguishing characteristic of primitive mountains. Sandstone thickly studded with quartz and a little freestone are the only varieties which they offer; a circumstance the more singular, as granite is the only stone to be met with for upwards of two hundred miles from the bottom of the mountains.

For the whole of this distance to the westward of the Blue Mountains, the country abounds with the richest herbage, and is upon the whole tolerably well supplied with running water. In the immediate vicinity of them, there is a profusion of rivulets which discharge themselves into the Western River; or as it's termed by the natives the Warragamba, the main branch of the Hawkesbury. From the moment, however, that the streams begin to take a western course, the want of water becomes more perceptible, and increases as you proceed into the interior, particularly in a west and south-west direction.

This large and fertile tract of country, is in general perfectly free from underwood; and in many places is without any timber at all. Bathurst Plains, for instance, have been found by actual ad-

measurement, to contain upwards of sixty thousand acres, upon which there is scarcely a tree. The whole of this western country indeed, is much more open and free from timber than the best districts to the eastward of the Blue Mountains; and is certainly much better adapted for all the purposes of grazing and rearing cattle. The herbage is sweeter and more nutritive, and there is an unlimited range for stock without any danger of their committing trespass. There is besides for the first two hundred miles a constant succession of hill and dale, admirably suited for the pasture of sheep.

Such appears to us to be the varieties of New South Wales, but for the satisfaction of our readers we will lay before them the evidence of other writers on the subject. All agree that the soil is like the climate, excellent.

S. Butler observes:—"As far as it has yet been explored, a remarkable degree of uniformity is found to prevail in the quality of land, supporting—at least south of the tropic—the same peculiar vegetation, and the same peculiar animals. From Mancton Bay, near the tropic on the east, through Port Jackson, Port Philip, the Tamar, Nepean Bay, Port Lincoln, King George's Sound, and the Swan River to Shark's Bay, near the tropic on the west, this peculiarity of sameness prominently appears. The discovery of a part of the coast materially different from the rest would astonish those who are acquainted with such portions as are at present known. That part of the continent of America which has been colonised by the Anglo-Americans is distinguished by its mighty rivers, with their tributary streams poured from magnificent mountains, flowing through valleys clothed with dense and boundless forests—their soil enriched by vegetable remains, the accumulation of ages, and deriving

every year fresh elements of fertility from the same source, while the climate and atmosphere correspond with these characteristic features of the country. Australia, on the other hand, has none of these peculiarities of physical conformation. It has no large rivers, and is comparatively thinly wooded. Extensive districts are entirely free from timber. In the forests the trees stand far apart, and are scantily clothed with leaves. The foliage is not deciduous; and being highly aromatic and antiseptic, adds nothing to the fertility of the soil, greatly as it contributes to the purity and healthfulness of the atmosphere, and with these peculiarities we have shown the climate to be in strict accordance.

“The absence of alluvial deposits from any very large rivers has formed a stripe of comparative sterility along the margin of the ocean. The soil of the coast does not on this account give a correct idea of that of the interior. Next the sea there is generally a belt, principally of sand, bearing only stunted shrubs or brushwood. Very fine land near the sea is a rare exception to this feature of uniformity. Nature seems to have peculiarly intended Australia for a pastoral country; and this feature in its soil plainly indicates that agriculture and commerce on a large scale must form ulterior steps in its progress to civilization. The extensive undulating plains of the inland district cleared by some natural process of forest vegetation, clothed with nutritious grasses, stretch themselves out, prepared for the flocks of the shepherd. The possession of cattle facilitates the cultivation of the land for more than domestic consumption, while the increase of inhabitants leads to the erection of towns, which in their turn encourage trade, and lead to the extension of commerce; a process

naturally and inevitably at present going on, and that first commencing with the natural advantages of the interior will eventually not only overcome the barrenness, but will draw out all the resources of the coast. The presence of a good harbour in front of, and the existence of a productive people behind, even the most ungenial shore, will speedily make it the site for a city of industry, and its suburbs the seat, not only for producing the necessaries of agriculture, but will cause it to teem with the luxuries of the garden.

“Australia either produces, or can be made capable of producing every grain and vegetable useful to man, with fruit in the highest perfection, and of all varieties, from the currant and gooseberry of colder climes, to the banana and pine apple of the tropics. In the immediate vicinity of Sydney, apples, pears, plums, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, mulberries, medlars, apricots, peaches, nectarines, figs, grapes, melons, oranges, lemons, citrons, loquats, olives, pomegranates — and in sheltered spots the grava and banana will be found growing intermingled, and producing fruit in the greatest abundance and of the richest flavour. Green peas are gathered as well in winter as in summer, and the potato produces two crops in the year. Wheat on good soil averages from twenty to thirty bushels in the acre, weighing from sixty to sixty-five pounds the bushel. But in the very worst situations and under notoriously improvident management on the farms of the smaller settlers — hitherto the chief wheat growers — forty bushels have been obtained. The seed time is from March to June, the harvest is in November and December. It is the same for oats and barley, but as yet these have been cultivated principally for fodder. Maize, the most luxuriant of grain crops, is sown in Oc-

tober and November, and ripens from March to June, producing from twenty to forty and fifty bushels nett to the acre, according to the qualities of the soil and the carefulness of the culture. So that there are two seed times and two harvests each year at different seasons, and seldom has either been known to fail. The vine, the olive, and the mulberry thrive well. Vineyards and olive grounds have already been planted in various districts, and very palatable wine produced. Tobacco of good quality is grown. Silk, and dried fruits, with other useful and valuable articles for the production of which the climate is favourable, will doubtless by degrees be introduced.

“Even to the southward, in such districts as Illawarra, the vegetation is very peculiar, and bears a stronger tropical character than in regions nearer the equator. This is supposed to arise from the shelter afforded from the westerly winds by the range of mountains which stretch along the coast, together with the nature of the soil, which bears strong marks of a volcanic origin.”

Mr. M'Arthur corroborates Mr. Butler in the above, and further says: “But whilst nature is thus bountiful, nowhere is the truth of the ordination of Providence—that what is most to be desired must be sought by labour—more manifest than in New South Wales.”

“Amid the primeval forests of Australia, the stranger will be struck with wonder at the novel character of everything around him. He will admire the gigantic growth of the trees, the varied beauty of the flowers, and the luxuriance of the uncropped herbage; he may breathe enjoyment from the pure and genial atmosphere; but for wherewithal to allay the cravings of hunger he would seek in vain. There, Nature of herself

produces absolutely nothing for the food of man ; but to honest and persevering labour, nowhere does she yield such a grateful return."

"The trees are almost all evergreens, and grow to a surprising height, some of them even to 200 feet, and some of them as much as 60 feet in circumference ; except in the mountains they never grow thick, the whole face of the country being like a gentleman's park, the wood not requiring to be cut down to permit of ploughing as in America and almost every other new colony.

"The trees are almost all hard wood, and many of them cast their bark every year. Cedar is so plentiful that all the churches are lined with it. All the fruit trees of Europe have now been introduced and flourish, so that fruit is very cheap."—*Lang*.

Hops are also grown in Australia, and have already become an article of export ; as we are informed by some of the London newspapers which lately thus stated—A vessel from Melbourne has arrived in the London docks, and brought several packets of hops, the growth and 'produce of Australia. This is the first importation of hops this season, and is of peculiar interest on account of the important district from which the supply was produced.

There are several rivers in New South Wales, none of which are, however, of much importance in a commercial point of view ; the principal are Castlereagh, Darling, Hawkesbury, Lachlan, Macquarrie, Murumbidge, Nepean, Warragamba, &c.

The rivers and seas team with excellent fish ; but the eel, smelt, mullet, whiting, mackerel, sole, skate, cod, John Dory, &c., are those principally known in this country.

The animals are the kangaroo, native dog. (a small species of the wolf) the wambat, bandicoot,

kangaroo-rat, opossum, flying squirrel, flying fox, &c. The hare, pheasant, and partridge are quite unknown, but there are herons, wild ducks, turkies, widgeon, teal, quail, pigeons, plovers, snipes, &c., with emus, black swans, cockatoos, parrots, paroquets, and a great many smaller birds, some of which are not found in any other country. In fact, both its animal and vegetable kingdoms are in a great measure peculiar to itself.

There are many poisonous reptiles in New South Wales, but few accidents happen either to the aborigines, or to the colonists, from their bite; of these the centipede, tarantula, scorpion, slow-worm, and the snake, are the most to be dreaded, particularly the latter; since there are at least thirty varieties, all of which but one are venomous in the highest degree.

The aborigines of this country occupy the lowest place in the gradatory scale of the human species. They have neither houses nor clothing: they are entirely unacquainted with the arts of agriculture; and even the arms which the several tribes have to protect themselves from the aggressions of their neighbours, and the hunting and fishing implements with which they administer to their support, are of the rudest contrivance and workmanship.

Sixty years' intercourse with Europeans has not effected the slightest change in their habits; and even those who have intermixed with the colonists have never been prevailed upon to practise one of the arts of civilised life. Disdaining all restraint, their happiness is still centred in their original pursuits, and they seem to consider the superior enjoyments to be derived from civilization (for they are very far from being insensible to them) a poor compensation for the sacrifice of any portion of their natural liberty. The colour of these people

is a dark chocolate; their features bear a strong resemblance to the African negro; they have the same flat nose, large nostrils, wide mouth, and thick lips; but their hair is not woolly, except in Van Dieman's Land, where they have this further characteristic of the negro.

These people bear no resemblance to any of the inhabitants of the surrounding islands, except those of New Guinea, which is only separated from New Holland by a narrow strait. One of these islands has therefore evidently peopled the other; but from whence the original stock was derived is one of those geographical problems which in all probability will never be satisfactorily solved.

The admiration of Mrs. M., a lady who visited this country, for a specimen of the "red man," a native chief whom she saw in Sydney shortly after her arrival, is unbounded; her sketch of him is happy and picturesque. "I had often heard of and seen what is called majestic demeanour, but this untutored being, with his tattooed face and arms, and long shaggy mantle, fairly outdid even my imaginings of the majestic, as he paced deliberately along, planting his foot at every step, as if he had an emperor's neck beneath it, and gazing with most royal indifference around him. There was the concentrated grandeur of a hundred royal mantles of velvet, gold, and ermine in the very sway of his flax-fringed cloak. I never beheld any thing so stately. I verily believe, had you placed him amid the coronation splendour of Westminster Abbey, he would not have been so *vulgar* as to betray surprise." From all that we heard from other quarters, we are inclined to believe that the chief was, in all this, an exception to his brethren.

The generality of writers who at all notice the manners and characteristics of the aborigines, lead

us to form the lowest possible estimate of their moral and intellectual character. They are extremely fond of dancing; their principal festival, at which this species of amusement is immoderately indulged in, being the *Corobbery*, at which their doctors, or *cudjies*, deliver them certain charms, which are supposed to possess the highest virtue. They prepare themselves elaborately for this important ceremony—full dress being painted nudity. Several large fires are lighted, around which are seated the women and children. The men paint themselves, according to their fancy, with red and white earth. They have bones, and bits of stones, and emus' feathers tied on their hair, and branches of trees tied on their ancles, which make a rushing noise when they dance. Their appearance is very wild; and in dancing, their gestures and attitudes are equally so. One old man stands before the dancers, and keeps repeating some words very fast in a kind of time, while he beats together two sticks. The women never dance; their employment is to keep the fire burning bright; and some of them beat sticks, and declaim in concert with the old man. One of the aboriginal dances is called the Kangaroo dance; and one man, wearing a long tail, drops down on his hands and his feet, pretending to graze, starting to look about, and mimicking the demeanour of the animal as nearly as possible; the others in the characters of dogs and hunters, performing their part of the play in a circle round him, at a very short distance.

The married life of the natives is any thing but comfortable. The wives are called 'gins;' and getting married, with the man, is equivalent to keeping a servant; so that the bachelor who has no wife to drudge for him is universally denominated a poor fellow. A wife with them leads

but a very miserable existence, being a slave in every social sense, and not even permitted to feed but at her husband's pleasure, and off the offal he may choose to fling her, although on her devolves the chief care of providing for the repast. The natives are not over nice in their feeding, their usual food being kangaroos and opossums roasted, skin, entrails, and all. After the husband has gnawed at the animal till he has gorged himself, it is then handed over his shoulder to his wife, who sits behind, and afterwards to the children, the whole family after the repast going to sleep around the fire. They are fond of children who have survived the perils of infancy; but infanticide is nevertheless a common crime; and the mother of a babe, when asked for her infant, will reply, with the greatest possible coolness, "I believe dingo patta"—that is, she believes the dogs have eaten it. They are exceedingly treacherous, and in the main very cowardly.

Rude and barbarous as are the aborigines of this country, they have some confused notions of a Supreme Being, and a future state, but have an idea of an evil spirit, which they denominate "*Yahor*" the "devil-devil," of whom they live in the greatest terror, and have conceived the most grotesque imaginings.

Their fondness for European clothing is well known, and we have heard many amusing instances of its display. One Wellington boot, something the worse for the wear, was sometimes worn, without any other article of apparel; sometimes a hat; sometimes a shirt without sleeves; sometimes one thing, sometimes another; but great were the pride and grandeur of him who could button his upper man in the remains of a dress coat, that alone being considered sufficient costume.

Each tribe has its allotted territory, and woe be to him, if caught, who commits a trespass upon the domains of a neighbouring tribe, and this even when accompanying settlers on their journey. •

The laziness of the natives is wholly unconquerable; the utmost effort they ever make towards the formation of a residence being to raise a few slips of bark slantingly against a tree, under which they crawl during bad weather.

“Life in the Bush,” the production of a lady, furnishes several anecdotes. She was returning to her husband's settlement from Melbourne, where she had been confined. She says—“One morning I got into a little hut, with the roof half off; it was empty, and I thought I could wash and dress my baby better than in the dray. I had not been long in the hut when we were surrounded by natives, all anxious to see what we were about. One or two of the women came into the hut, and touched the *pickaninny cooley* (little boy) as they called it. They seemed much amused at his different pieces of dress, and all the little black pickaninnies tried to cry like him. I seldom ever heard a black baby cry, and when it does so, the mother has little patience with it, but gives it a good blow with her elbow to make it quiet. The women carry their children at their backs in a basket or bag; and when they suckle them, they generally put their breast under their arm, and I have seen them put it over their shoulder. The natives whom we met here knew me. They said they had seen me before, when I went up the country with a *pickaninny labra* (little girl), though I did not recollect any of their faces. When a black woman has a second child, before the first can run about and take care of itself, it is said they eat the second one. I have been told this several times,

but am not certain if it is really the case, it is so very unnatural; but it is well known they are cannibals, and I know they will not submit to any thing that troubles them.

"They are very lazy, particularly the men. They make their *leubras* go about all day to dig for maranong, or find other kinds of food for them, whilst they amuse themselves by hanging about idle. In the evening they meet at their *mi-mi*; the men eat first, and whatever they choose to leave, the *leubras* and pickaninnies may eat afterwards. Sometimes a very affectionate cooley may, now and then, while he is eating, throw a bit to his *leubra*, as we should do to a dog, for which kindness she is very grateful. Maranong is a root found in the ground; it is white, and shaped like a carrot, but the taste is more like a turnip. The *leubras* dig for it with long pointed sticks, which they always carry in their hands. I have often eaten maranong; it is very good, and I have put it in soup, for want of better vegetables."

The same lady says—"We had a good many visits from the natives, and began not to turn them away so quickly as we used to do; but we never allowed them to sleep at the station, except one big boy, Tom, whom we had determined to keep, if he would remain, thinking he might be useful in finding stray cattle. Tom was very lazy, but he was always obliged to chop wood, or do some work, else he got nothing to eat, which we found to be the only way to make the natives active.

"In some of the fresh water ponds there are found immense quantities of muscles, which the native women dive for. We often saw numbers of shells lying in heaps where the blacks had been eating. They are also fond of a large grub found generally in the cherry or honey-suckle tree; they

can tell, by knocking the tree with a stick, if any grubs are in it. When they knock the tree, they put their ears close to listen, and they open it with a tomahawk at the very spot the grubs are to be found. It is a large white grub, with a black head. I know a gentleman who was tempted to taste them, from seeing the natives enjoy them so much, and he said they were very good, and often ate them again. Manna falls very abundantly from the gum trees at certain seasons of the year. I think it was in March I gathered some. It is very good, and tastes like almond-biscuits. It is only to be procured early in the morning, as it disappears soon after sunrise. We sometimes got some skins of the opossum and flying squirrel, or tuau, from the natives. It was a good excuse for them to come to the station. I paid them with a piece of dress, and they were very fond of getting a red pocket-handkerchief to tie round their necks."

Minerals.—The line of coast throughout the territory of New South Wales presents in general an aspect of bold perpendicular cliffs of sandstone, lying in horizontal strata. The cliffs are sometimes interrupted by sandy beaches, behind which the country is low and flat, the high land retiring to a considerable distance. The strata of sandstone consists of beds, lying one upon the other in the most regular manner, so that their relative original situation has evidently never undergone any change. This sandstone is principally silicious; sometimes, indeed, it is argillaceous, and in this state it is generally found over coal, in which situation it is very soft and decomposable.

All the divisions of Australia abound in those minerals which the art of man can apply to the purposes of civilization. Among these, coal, iron, lime, and granite are the principal. The most

valuable mineral yet worked in New South Wales is coal, especially in the country to the South of Hunter's River, which is an extensive coal field.* In every district, indeed, where the attempt has been made, similar strata have been discovered. Seams of coal are visible on the face of the cliffs on the shore, and may be traced for miles, until they dip down beneath the surface of the sea. The coal is decidedly of vegetable origin, the foliage and the fibre of the wood being still so distinctly visible that the botanist might ascertain the species to which they belong. In the alternating strata of the coal are found nodules of clay, ironstone, and trunks of arundineous ironstone plants. Thin beds of coal and iron are also met with along the banks of the rivers. In the vicinity of the mountains, from which many of them flow, these minerals also abound, communicating a ferruginous taste to the smaller streams, and indicating the exhaustless stores which are yet to be explored.

Copper and other metals have also given indication of their existence, but these will continue for some time to be only of secondary importance compared with the more useful, iron and coal, which, as the indispensable handmaids of steam, have already lent their most effectual aid in increasing the rapid spread of physical and moral improvement over the south-eastern portion of the world.

With a plentiful supply of iron, stone, slate, wood, and coal, it may easily be conceived how rapidly an industrious population may plant cities even in the bush.

Being still comparatively ignorant of the geo-

* The recent discoveries of the extensive Gold Field will be particularly described in the appendix.

graphy of the entire coast, and even of much of the interior of the country, we must know still less of the geological structure which forms the anatomy of the physical features of New South Wales. The many remarkable circumstances connected with this island have given rise to numerous and various conjectures as to its origin. Immense deposits of fossils, chiefly shells, indicate that vast tracts, now dry land, have but recently emerged from beneath the ocean. It exhibits many symptoms, both of a diluvian and of a volcanic origin; but as this is the last subject that generally excites the popular curiosity respecting a new colony, and as the facts necessary for forming a correct judgment must devolve upon men of science, on them we refrain from further expatiation.

Mountains.—The country rises gradually from the sea, till it terminates in the Blue Mountains, ninety miles from the coast; they are in general about 4000 feet high (about the height of the highest land in this country), but some few peaks are 6000 feet above the level of the sea; they run the whole length of the old part of the colony, and behind them are beautiful plains, while the country on the sea side is hill and valley. These mountains are one source of the delightful climate, as they cool the air with a balmy land breeze in the hot weather. They are called the Blue Mountains, from the azure tint given by the light falling on them through a fine rare atmosphere. They are full of metals, which, when explored, will be a source of great wealth to the colony. These mountains are extremely rugged and wild, and most of them very difficult of ascent. They consist of masses of hills, irregularly connected, diverging into ranges of various heights, without any appearance of uniformity, and invariably shrouded by evergreens.

The views from these mountains over the boundless plains on the one side, and over the land to the distant ocean on the other, are splendid; there is a superb pass across them, called the Victoria Pass, 8751 feet above the sea, of which any country might be proud.

New South Wales, as far as known, is divided into nineteen counties, viz :—

1. *Cumberland* is the metropolitan county. It is bounded by the Hawkesburg, the Nepean, and the Cataract rivers; it is an undulating plain, and contains about 900,000 English acres.

2. *Camden County* lies below Cumberland to the southward, and, in point of soil, is greatly superior to the latter: it contains altogether 2200 square miles, being sixty-six miles in length, and fifty-five miles in breadth. It is one entire succession of hill and dale, possessing several large tracts of unsurpassed fertility; of these the principal are the "The Cow Pastures," elsewhere described.

Illisourra, or the Fire Islands.—That fertile, beautiful, and romantic region is situated in Camden County; it comprises 150,000 acres, and extends, in a north and south direction for eighteen miles along the coast. The communication with Sydney, however, is obstructed by a range of precipices too steep for the passage of waggons.

3. *Argyle County* lies to the westward of Camden. It contains about 1950 square miles; being sixty miles long by thirty miles broad. This county consists of extensive ridges and swelling hills, with irregular plains between, and is watered by the streams branching from the Hawkesbury and Strathaven rivers, which even the heat of the summer does not altogether dry up. Lake Bathurst, which is from three to five miles in diameter, is in Argyle County; also Goulbourn's Plains, consist-

ing of 35,000 acres, without a single tree. Although this county cannot be said to be deficient of timber, compared with other districts, it is but thinly wooded; and large tracts, called brushies, are altogether barren.

4. *Westmoreland County* lies northward of Argyle; it contains about 1592 square miles, being fifty-nine miles long and thirty-eight broad. It possesses the leading features distinguishing the county of Argyle, and contains a part of the Blue Mountains.

5. *Cook's County* is among the Blue Mountains, west of Cumberland; it is fifty-six miles in length, and fifty miles in breadth, and contains 1656 square miles. The soil is hard and rocky, yet there are several fertile vallies; and a large extent of tableland, from two to three thousand feet high, abounding with picturesque and romantic views. The vale of Clywd runs along the foot of Mount York, and extends six miles in a westerly direction. The rich soil below is irrigated by Cox's river, which runs easterly into the Hawkesbury, and by the Fish and Clarence Rivers, flowing westward into the M'Quarrie.

6. *Bathurst County* lies farther west; it contains 1860 square miles, its length being seventy-two, and its breadth seventy-eight miles. The soil consists principally of broken tableland, forming extensive treeless downs, such as Bathurst Plains, which contain 50,000 acres. Open downs of this description occasionally extend along the M'Quarrie River for 120 miles. On the summits of some of the knolls there are many dangerous quagmires and bogs, concealed by a surface of rich verdure. It is distant 120 miles from Sydney; and, from its cool salubrious climate, and rich pasturage, it may be considered as a most eligible situation for the

rearing of fine woolled sheep on an extensive scale. It is admirably adapted to the growth of wheat, but the great expense of carriage to Sydney tends greatly to check its cultivation. The society of Bathurst is assuming an English aspect.

7. *Roxburgh County* lies to the north of Bathurst; it is fifty-three miles in length, forty-three in breadth, and contains 1519 square miles. It abounds with hilly and broken land, but numerous fertile spots are to be found, where the pasturage is exceedingly rich.

8. *Wellington County* lies to the north-west of Bathurst, and in-general partakes of the same qualities of soil; it is seventy miles long, by fifty-one broad. In this county is the beautiful and fertile vale, called Wellington Valley, which is peculiarly adapted either for grazing or agriculture.

9. *Philip County* lies to the east of Wellington and north of Roxburgh counties; it contains 1618 square miles, being sixty-two miles long by thirty-eight in breadth. It possesses a great variety of soil.

10. *Bligh County* is situated in the north-west part of the colony, and forms the present prescribed boundary. Little is known of the soil. It is but thinly populated.

11. *Brisbane County* adjoins Bligh County, nearer the coast; it contains about 2340 square miles.

12. *Macintyre County* is situated northward of Cook's County, and contains 2056 square miles.

13. *Northumberland County* is situated north of Cumberland, on the coast, and is increasing in importance. It is intersected with numerous creeks and rivers, thus affording every facility for intercourse. Its capital, Newcastle, with 3000 inhabitants, is situated at the mouth of the Hunter River;

in its immediate vicinity are coal mines, which are perseveringly and profitably worked. This county contains about 2340 square miles.

14. *Durham County* lies to the north of Northumberland, and contains about 2117 square miles.

15. *Gloucester County* is situated on the coast, between Northumberland and McQuarrie; it contains 2700 square miles. In this county is the Australian Agricultural Company's grant of a million of acres; also the fine harbour and thriving town of Port Stephens.

16. *Georgiana County* is situated to the west of the county of Westmoreland; it is bounded on the north by Bathurst, and contains 1924 square miles.

17. *King's County* is situated southward of Georgiana County, bounded on the west by Argyle, and contains 1781 square miles.

18. *Murray County* is bounded on the north by King and Argyle Counties; it contains 2247 square miles. Lake George is in this county.

19. *St. Vincent's County* is on the coast south of Camden, and east of Argyle and Murray counties. It contains 2709 square miles.

There are still large unexplored tracts of land spreading to the northward, as well as reaching far into the interior, the soil of which can only be matter of conjecture: the explored tracts forming only a small proportion of the vast surface of this southern continent.

The want of navigable rivers is a formidable obstacle to the exploration of the interior, and is a circumstance which seems to indicate the existence of vast barren and arid tracts. Prince Regent's River, the largest discovered on the north-west coast, is not a channel for a large body of water, while the Murray, on the south, appears to flow immense distances without any increase of its bulk.

The river M'Quarrie, which rises west of the Blue Mountains, is lost in extensive marshes, about 147 degrees of longitude. The Lachlan and Murrumbidgee, both also rising in the colony, unite with the Murray, which falls into the sea at Encounter Bay, in South Australia.

Port M'Quarrie is situated at the mouth of the river Hastings, 150 miles north of Sydney; it is a bar harbour, not adapted for large vessels. This portion of the country is said to be too hot for wheat; it is, however, well watered with several small streams. Port M'Quarrie was formerly a place for refractory convicts, but they have been removed to Moreton Bay.

The neighbourhood of Moreton Bay, called by Dr. Lang *Cook's Land*, is attracting considerable attention. Though from its latitude it is warmer than Sydney, it is nearly free from the hot winds occasionally prevailing in other parts of New South Wales. The discoveries of Sir Thomas Mitchell also prove that, instead of the interior of the country, to the north-west, being arid and barren, as was formerly supposed, the soil is of the most fertile kind, well watered, and that the scenery is magnificent and grand in the extreme. The fact of a large river running northwards, most probably into the Gulf of Carpentaria, which has recently been explored, is also of great importance, and will greatly facilitate steam communication with England, *via* India.

The climate of Cook's Land is highly salubrious; the inhabitants are turning their attention to the cultivation of tobacco. Tropical plants and fruits also flourish there. Dr. Lang is now engaged in promoting the emigration of industrious families to this very fine district, which, however, for some time to come, will only be adapted for those who

depend entirely upon agricultural pursuits, as it is still too thinly inhabited to afford subsistence to many artisans.

Norfolk Island contains about eleven thousand acres of land, generally a rich brown loam. It is extremely beautiful, affording a fine tropical scenery, and a beautiful undulating country. It was colonised by the Governor of New South Wales, in 1791, for the purpose of growing supplies for the colony. It is now used as a prison for the most depraved male convicts, who are banished thither from New South Wales, to work in chains for life.

The harbours along the coast are numerous and excellent; some of them, as Port Jackson, Western Port, Port Philip, Port Jervis, and Twofold Bay, are land-locked.

The harbour of Port Jackson is perhaps exceeded by none in the world, except the Derwent, in point of size or safety; and in this latter particular, it is doubtful if it has not the advantage. It is navigable for vessels of any burden for about seven miles above the town, that is about fifteen miles from the entrance. It possesses the best anchorage the whole way, and is perfectly sheltered from every wind that can blow. It is said to have nearly a hundred coves, and is capable of containing all the shipping in the world. There can be no doubt, therefore, that Sydney, from the excellence of its situation and possessing such a harbour, must ultimately become a place of vast commercial importance.

The discovery of this harbour, as related by Mr. Martin, is interesting:—

“On the return of Captain Cook from his voyage in the Southern hemisphere, and discovery of that part of the coast of New Holland named New

South Wales, it was resolved to form a penal settlement at Botany Bay, with the following objects:—

- 1st. To rid the mother country of the yearly increasing number of prisoners who were accumulating in the gaols.
- 2nd. To afford a proper place for the safe custody and punishment of the criminals, as well as for their progressive and ultimate reformation: and, 3rdly., To form a free colony out of the materials which the reformed prisoners would supply, in addition to families of free emigrants who might settle in the country from time to time.

With these laudable objects in view, eleven sail of ships, consisting of a frigate (the *Sirius*), an armed tender, three store ships, and six transports, assembled at Portsmouth, in March 1787, having on board 565 male and 192 female convicts, with a guard consisting of a major-commandant, three captains, twelve subalterns, twenty-four non-commissioned officers, and 168 privates, all of the royal marines; together with forty of the marines' wives, and their children. Captain Arthur Philip, R.N., an experienced officer, was appointed governor of the colony. The small fleet, with two years' provisions on board, sailed from the Mother-bank on the 12th of July, 1787; touched for supplies and stock at Teneriffe, Rio de Janeiro, and the Cape of Good Hope; and arrived at their destination (Botany Bay,) on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1788, after a voyage of upwards of eight months, of which four weeks were spent at the Cape. Captain Philip soon discovered that the descriptions which had been sent home of Botany Bay had been too flattering; in the first place, the bay was open to the full sweep of the east winds, which rolled a tremendous sea on the beach; and, in the second place, the land, though delightful for *botanizing*,

was a series of swamps, and sterile sand, without water. Little suspecting that one of the finest harbours in the world was within a few miles' distance to the northward, Captain Philip proceeded, with the boats and some of his officers, to examine what Captain Cook had termed Broken Bay, where the Hawkesbury disembogues; but while proceeding thither, he resolved to examine an inlet, which in Cook's chart was marked a boat harbour, but apparently so small as not to be worth investigating; Cook had, therefore, passed to the northward, and given the inlet the name of *Port Jackson*, which was that of the seaman, at the mast head, who first descried it on the look out. Captain Philip entered between the lofty head lands, to examine this 'boat harbour,' and his astonishment may be more easily conceived than described, when he found, not a boat creek, but, one of the safest havens in the world—where the whole of the British navy might securely ride at anchor. It is navigable, for vessels of any burden, for fifteen miles from its entrance, and indented with numerous coves, sheltered from every wind, and with the finest anchorage. Thither the fleet was immediately removed; and the British ensign, on the 26th January, 1788, was hoisted on the shores of Sydney Cove, then thinly wooded, and abounding in kangaroos, but now, the infant capital of an embryo empire. The silence and solitude of the forest were soon broken in upon by the resounding stroke of the woodman's axe; the ground was cleared, tents pitched, the live stock landed, stores deposited, and the little colony established; the number of individuals amounting to 1,030, which within half a century has been augmented to 100,000 souls. Great difficulties were experienced for several years, which nothing but the most ex-

traordinary perseverance, aided by that moral and physical courage which Britons possess in so eminent a degree, could have surmounted."

Such was the foundation of this flourishing colony,—the most valuable belonging to the British crown; and so rapid has been its increase, that in 1851, about sixty years after its settlement, by a mere handful of military and convicts, the population amounted to upwards of 300,000; an increase so rapid that if we had not been assured of the fact, by the publication of the parliamentary returns, we could not have given it credit. There is still, however, a great disparity in the sexes, nearly 40,000 females being required to render them equal in number. The cessation of transportation to the colony has reduced the proportion of the convict inhabitants, who, a few years since, formed a fourth part of the community, to an inconsiderable fraction.

Mr. Martin states, in a summary way, the progress of the colony, in chronological order, as follows:—

"1789, one year after the establishment of the colony, *first* harvest reaped (at Parramatta); 1790, *first* settler (a convict) took possession of the land allotted to him; 1791, *first* brick building finished; 1793, *first* purchase of colonial grain (1200 bushels) by government; 1794, *first* church built; 1796, *first* play performed; 1800, *first* copper coin circulated; 1803, *first* newspaper printed; 1804, Fort William built; 1805, *first* vessel built; 1810, *first* census, free school, toll-gates, police, naming of the streets, establishment of Sydney races, and race ball; 1811, *first* pounds; 1813, *first* fair; 1815, *first* steam-engine; 1817, supreme court established, and *first* bank; 1818, benevolent society formed; 1819, orphan institution founded; 1820, *first* spirits distilled, and *first*

colonial tobacco sold; 1821, *first* Wesleyan and Roman-catholic chapels built; 1822, freedom of the press granted, and *first* agricultural and reading societies formed; 1824, charter of justice granted, legislative council appointed, and *first* quarter-sessions held; 1825, *first* criminal jury impanelled, *first* archdeacon ordained, *first* coroner appointed, and *first* constitutional county meeting held; 1827, *first* daily newspaper established; 1829, *first* circuit court opened; 1830, *first* civil jury impanelled, and *first* college founded; 1831, *first* colonial steam-boat launched; 1832, *first* savings' bank instituted; 1833, *first* mechanics' school of arts formed, and a monthly magazine established; 1834, land sold in Sydney at £20,000 per acre!"

When the colony of New South Wales was first established, the whole executive powers were vested in the governor alone; in 1824, however, a council was appointed to assist, and control the governor; and the chief authority is now vested in—1st. A governor of the territory of New South Wales, and a governor-in-chief of Van Dieman's Land; 2nd. An executive council, consisting of the governor, the colonial secretary and treasurer, the bishop, and lieutenant-governor; 3rd. A legislative council, consisting of the members of the above-mentioned court, with the addition of the chief-justice, the attorney-general, the chief officers of the customs, the auditor-general, and seven private gentlemen of the colony, who are appointed by the crown for life.

In case of the death, absence, removal, or resignation of a member of the legislative council, the governor may appoint another to act in his stead, until her majesty's pleasure be known. With the concurrence of two-thirds of the members, the governor makes laws for the colony, if not contrary

to the act of parliament, or to the charter, or to letters patent, or to the laws of England. The governor has the initiative of all laws to be submitted to discussion in the council, provided he gives eight clear days' notice in the public journals, or by public advertisement (if there be no newspaper), of the general objects of the act proposed to be brought under consideration, unless in cases of emergency, when such notice may be dispensed with.

Any member of the council may request the governor to introduce a bill for the consideration of the council. If the governor declines, he must lay his reasons in writing, together with a copy of the bill, before the council; and any member, disapproving of such refusal, may enter upon the minutes the grounds of his disapprobation.

If a majority of the members dissent from any bill, and enter the grounds of their dissent on the minutes of council, the bill cannot become law. Every bill passed by the council must be transmitted, within seven days, to the supreme court to be enrolled, and after fourteen days from the date of such enrolment it comes into operation. If the judges represent that such bill is contrary to statutes or other public deeds, it is again brought under the consideration of the council, and if again passed, proceeds into operation until the pleasure of her majesty be known, to whom are transmitted the opinions of the judges, &c.

The governor and council have power to impose taxes for local purposes.

The votes and proceedings of the legislative council are officially published in the newspapers.

Laws and Courts.—The statute laws of England are in force in the colony, aided by acts of parliament, and local enactments by the governor and

legislative council : and an insolvent debtor's act is in operation, the benefit of which may be obtained by a defendant a second, or even a third time, if he pay fifteen shillings in the pound. Any public officer taking advantage of the provisions of the insolvent act, is, by an order of the secretary of state, dismissed the service. The execution of the laws devolves upon a supreme court, presided over by a chief and two puisne judges, whose powers are as extensive as those of the courts of queen's bench, common pleas, and exchequer in England. The supreme court, is a court of *oyer and terminer* and *gaol deliverer*, it is also a court of *equity*, with all the power within its jurisdiction of the lord high chancellor of England ; and it is a court of *admiralty*, for criminal offences, within certain limits ; it is empowered to grant letters of administration, and it is an insolvent debtor's court. From the supreme court an appeal lies in all actions, when the sum or matter at issue exceeds the value of £500, to the governor, or acting-governor, who is directed to hold a court of appeal, from which a final appeal lies to the queen in council. The supreme court is provided with an attorney-general and a solicitor-general. There are nine barristers, and thirty-three solicitors practising in this court. The sheriff exercises, by his deputies, the duties of his office over the whole territory. Circuit courts are held in different parts of the colony ; they are courts of record, and stand in the same relation to the supreme court as courts of *oyer and terminer*, and of *assize*, and *nisi prius* in England, do to the superior courts of record.

Courts of general and quarter sessions have the same powers as those in England, and also may take cognizance, in a summary way, of all crimes, not punishable by death, committed by convicts.

whose sentences have not expired, or have not been remitted.

A vice admiralty court, presided over by the chief justice of the supreme court, takes cognizance of civil cases only, such as seamen's wages, &c. There is an archdeacon's court for clerical matters; but this court has no jurisdiction in testamentary affairs, the charter of justice having empowered the supreme court to grant letters of administration, and direct the distribution of testator's effects. Courts of requests have been established, for summarily determining claims not exceeding £10, except the matter in question relates to the title of any lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or to the taking or demanding any duty payable to her majesty, or to any fee of office, annual rents, or other such matter, where rights in future would be bound, or to a general right or duty, or to award costs. The decision of the court is final and summary, as in England; the commissioner appointed by the crown, presides in all the courts of requests throughout the colony. Juries sit in civil as well as criminal cases; until within these few years, military and naval officers formed the criminal jury; and civil causes were determined by a judge and two sworn assessors. Law-suits are frequent in New South Wales, and immense fortunes have been made by barristers and solicitors.

Police.—This important branch is well managed in New South Wales. There are benches of stipendiary as well as unpaid magistrates throughout the colony, aided by head-constables, and a civil and military force at each station. A large part of the military force is required to guard the convicts; and troops are seasoned in this colony for Indian service.

There are no military posts in any part of New

South Wales; and there are only three military works . . viz.—Fort M^cQuarrie, Dawes' Battery, and Fort Philip. The two former are situated on two points of land in the harbour of Port Jackson, forming the entrance to Sydney Cove, and were erected for the security of the shipping. The Battery and Fort Philip is situated on an eminence crowning the neck of land which is washed by the waters of Sydney Cove on the east, and of Darling harbour on the west side. This fort is still unfinished, although commenced as far back as 1804, and is only used as a telegraph station. There has been an ordnance establishment in New South Wales since 1836, the expense of which is defrayed out of the military chest.

Sydney, the capital of New South Wales and seat of the colonial government, is situated in 33 degrees 55 minutes of south latitude, and 151 degrees 25 minutes of east longitude; nearly equidistant from the extreme northern and southern extremities of the county of Cumberland. It is about seven miles distant from the heads of Port Jackson, and stands principally on two hilly necks of land and the intervening valley, which, together form Sydney Cove. The western side of the town extends to the water's edge, and occupies, with the exception of the small space reserved around Dawes' battery, the whole of the neck of land which separates Sydney Cove from Lane Cove, and extends a considerable distance back into the country besides. This part of the town, it may, therefore, be perceived, forms a little peninsula; and what is of still greater importance, the water is in general of sufficient depth in both coves to allow the approach of vessels of the largest burden to the very sides of the rocks.

On the eastern neck of land the extension of the

town has been interrupted by the Government-house, and the adjoining domain which occupies the whole of Bennilong's Point, a circumstance the more to be regretted, as the water all along this point is of still greater depth than on the western side of the Cove, and consequently affords still greater facilities for the erection of warehouses and the various important purposes of commerce.

The streets of Sydney are long, (some of them being fully a mile in length) wide, and quite English in their appearance; in general the houses are lofty and well constructed, interspersed with cottages, with small neat gardens in front. In some quarters of the town gardens are attached to every house. The houses rise in successive terraces, giving variety to the scene, and conveying by their neatness and elegance the idea of a prosperous community. The shops are frequently laid out with great taste: unlike the "stores" in New York where every article may be bought under the same roof, each trade or business is conducted in its own distinct premises.

Of the public buildings in Sydney, there are few that deserve particular notice for their architecture. In design and execution, the Australian College buildings, erected by a number of free emigrant Scotch mechanics in the year 1832, on the plan generally pursued in the new town of Edinburgh, are, perhaps, the first in the colony. These mechanics have since been the means of effecting a very striking improvement in the architecture of the town; and buildings are now erected both in Sydney and in various other parts of the territory, of a much superior character to any previously erected in New South Wales. The Sydney market buildings, consisting of a double range of covered sheds, in the Grecian style of architecture,

would almost bear comparison with any building of the kind in England. Government House is merely a large and rather ancient cottage, occupying a beautiful situation on the eastern side of the cove; it is to be forthwith superseded by a building more in accordance with the rapidly increasing wealth and importance of the town. St. James's church is a plain brick building, with a tall and rather handsome spire. The Court House, and a large building intended for a charity-school, for the town of Sydney, were erected in its immediate neighbourhood at the recommendation of Mr. Commissioner Bigge, that the whole might appear a single pile of building, and have a more imposing effect. The Roman Catholic chapel is an ambitious edifice, built of hewn stone in the form of a cross, and occupying a very conspicuous situation when viewed from the water. The Sydney college is also a very fine building. The Scotch church is a plain substantial building of freestone, in the Gothic style, with a square tower or belfry. There is also a place of worship for the Presbyterians of Sydney, a neat plain building in the Gothic style of architecture; and a Baptist chapel in the Grecian style. The Prisoners' Barracks is a large and substantial brick building, very creditable to the architect Mr. Greenaway; as is also the Carters' Barracks, and the General Hospital.

It is from the daily increasing number, however, and the daily improving character of the various private buildings that have been recently erected, or are now erecting everywhere in the town of Sydney, that a proper idea can be formed of the present state and rapid progress of the Australian capital. Wharfs for shipping, of the most substantial structure, warehouses of large dimensions and costly architecture, shops emulating those of

Bond-street in the British metropolis, dwelling-houses of every variety of form, public houses, wind-mills, steam-mills, &c. ; in short, buildings of every kind that may be supposed necessary in a busy sea-port town, have recently been erected, and are now erecting in all parts of Sydney—many of them of brick, and not a few of them of stone.

House rent is excessively high in Sydney, as may be inferred from the fact that £20,000 has been paid for an acre of building land in George Street ; £10,000, the minimum price of government building land, is not an uncommon price, and some ground is valued at £50 per foot. George Street consequently is the principal street, and contains all the fashionable emporiums, and is the chosen promenade, and the theatre for display, for high life in Sydney. Several private establishments are of great size ; one individual has erected auction rooms at the expense of £5000, and £20,000 has been expended by another individual on his distillery.

Sydney contain several churches, belonging to the English, Scotch, and Roman Catholic establishments, the clergymen of which are supported by the government. In addition to their own parochial duties they have to perform divine service periodically at the gaols, hulks, hospitals, factories, prisoners' barracks, stockades for iron-gangs, &c., male and female orphan schools, and at divers places in the interior. Besides the established churches there are many dissenting chapels belonging to almost every denomination, the clergymen of which depend upon the voluntary contributions of their flocks for their support. There are many educational institutions here ; the Australian College, with three teachers, and Sydney College, with four teachers ; these two institutions are supported by

the parents of the students, and contain about 400 scholars. There are also several primary and infant schools which are supported by government; three Roman Catholic schools are likewise supported by government. Independent of these laudable institutions, there are several wholly maintained by voluntary contributions, the New South Wales Sunday School Institution, the Auxiliary Bible Society, Orphan School, and schools for the children of the destitute poor, &c.

There are no fewer than six steam flour-mills in or near the town, besides a number of wind-mills on the heights around it. There are soap manufactories; manufactories of tallow and sperm candles; foundries for casting brass and iron; breweries for the manufacture of beer; distilleries for the manufacture of gin; rope manufactories; tanneries, hat manufactories, &c.; while the roads of the colony are traversed in every direction by coaches and vehicles of all descriptions, built in Sydney. Besides all the mechanical arts that are in requisition in house building, equipment and repairing of vessels are successfully practised in Sydney, and afford a comfortable subsistence to a large and daily increasing number of industrious families.

There is a market held twice a week in Sydney, in which all sorts of goods and produce are exposed for sale. The market for horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, grain, hay and straw, is held at the southern extremity of the town; the general market is situated nearer the harbour; and the large and commodious buildings erected for the accommodation of the numerous frequenters of that busy scene, not only form an appropriate ornament to the town, but afford a large annual revenue to the government. Grain and dairy produce, eggs and

poultry of all descriptions, potatoes, pumpkins, melons, apples, peaches, pears, apricots, oranges, lemons, loquats, grapes, figs, cherries, strawberries, gooseberries, native currants, with all the variety of vegetables cultivated in the mother country, are procurable in their respective seasons, in the Sydney market at reasonable prices, and of superior quality. The town of Sydney is plentifully supplied with milk from dairies in the town and neighbourhood; and with fish chiefly from Botany Bay.

There are five newspapers published in Sydney, besides the *Government Gazette*, which is published weekly. The *Sydney Gazette* is published three times; the *Herald*, daily, and the *Australian*, twice; and the *Colonist* once a week. There is also a journal published twice a week, and distributed gratuitously, supported entirely by advertisements. A monthly magazine has also been in existence since the commencement of 1836, and continues to prosper. Pamphlets on subjects of local interest are also published in Sydney from time to time; and many volumes of poetry and prose have issued from the colonial press.

"There are in and about Sydney," says Lieutenant Breton, "so many families of respectability, that they constitute a society extensive enough for any one who, not wishing to be eternally engaged in what is termed dissipation, is contented with a moderate share of it."

We extract the following particulars from the Parliamentary Report, the most certain source from which we can obtain correct information.

"The Government of the colony is vested in an executive and a legislative council.

"The laws and courts are the same as in this country, with a few trivial and necessary exceptions.

"The Colonial Churches are, the Church of

England, the Church of Scotland, and the Church of Rome. Besides these establishments, there are several congregations of Dissenters.

“Whenever a hundred adults shall attach themselves to the ministrations of any pastor, duly recognised and sent forth by one or other of the colonial churches, and shall contribute a comparatively small amount for the erection of a church and manse, the government guarantee a salary of £100 per annum for such pastor, and advance at least £300 from the public treasury to assist in erecting his manse; and to stimulate the exertions of the pastor, his government salary is to be augmented to £150 or even to £200 per annum, as soon as he rallies around him a congregation of two or five hundred adults.

“The practical operation of the new ecclesiastical system to which the colonists of New South Wales and Van Dieman’s Land are now subjected, I am happy to state that it promises to be attended with the happiest results. It has already infused something like life and vigour into the withered and shrivelled arm of colonial Episcopacy; it has proved as life from the dead to the Presbyterian communion. By the Episcopalian laity, of all classes, it has not only been acquiesced in as a matter of urgent necessity, on the score of justice to others, but received as a measure of real benefit to themselves. Local committees for the raising of the funds requisite for the erection and endowment of additional churches of that communion, in all parts of the colony, were formed immediately after the announcement of the new system.

“There is a Temperance Society in the town of Sydney, with ramifications in other parts of the colony.

“The number of reputable free emigrants is

now very considerable in New South Wales, and will rapidly increase for the future, through the measures that are now in progress in the colony, for the encouragement and promotion of emigration.

“As the Roman Catholic population of New South Wales, which comprises about a fourth of the entire population, consists almost exclusively of convicts, and emancipated convicts and their families, while the Episcopalian and Presbyterian communions comprise a very large majority of the free emigrant inhabitants, together with a large proportion of the convicts and freed persons; the greatly superior advantage which the friends and members of these communions will have, in rendering the new arrangement available for the planting of additional Protestant churches, and the settlement of additional Protestant ministers, is evident and unquestionable.

“Considerable efforts have been for some time making to promote, in Australia, the education of the poor as well as the rich. For the former there are two noble establishments, called the Male and Female Orphan Schools, each containing 125 destitute children, who are reared from infancy, educated and apprenticed out, and the females portioned when married. Of infant schools, there are four at Sydney, one at Parramatta, and one at Windsor; of primary or parochial schools, thirty three in different parts of the colony; and there are two King's schools, one at Sydney, and the other at Parramatta, with clerical teachers. Private establishments for education are numerous. The Sydney college was instituted 26th January 1830; it was established in shares of £50 each, and upwards of £2000 has been expended in erecting the college; it is under the control of a president (the

chief justice) and a committee of management, composed of *emigrants* and *emancipists*.

"The Australian college at Sydney, which owes its existence to the active philanthropy of the Rev. Dr. Lang, was instituted in the year 1831. It has a council and senate, after the Scotch form, on which, indeed, it is modelled. There is a principal (Rev. J. S. Lang D.D.) minister of the Scotch church, Sydney; a professor of English and English literature; a professor of the Latin and Greek languages, and of mathematics and natural philosophy, with under masters for the elementary English classes—writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, drawing, &c. The Australian College combines a series of schools for the elementary, with a gradually extending provision for the higher branches of education. Its capital is £7000, one half to be contributed by the colonial government.

"A *Mechanics' School of Arts* was instituted on the 22nd of March, 1833; the governor is patron, and there is an efficient management, consisting of a president, and vice-president, and committee. There is a *Female School of Industry*, which owes its origin to Mrs. General Darling, when her husband was governor of that colony. The *Australian Subscription Library* was founded under the auspices of General Darling, and the president (the Hon. Alex. M'Lean) has in this, as in very many other instances, contributed to promote education and science.

The other societies connected with religion, humanity, literature, or science, are the societies for *Promoting Christian Knowledge*, an *Auxiliary Bible Society*, *Wesleyan Auxiliary Missionary Society*, *Australian Tract Society*, a *Benevolent Society*, a *Dispensary*, an *Emigrant's Friend Society*,

an *Hospital*, an *Agricultural and Horticultural Society*, &c.

"The Press, although in its infancy, is making considerable progress, and will doubtless increase, as it is unshackled by stamps, advertisement taxes, or paper 'excise. Daily and Weekly Newspapers are extensively circulated throughout the Colonies.

"The colony is evidently at this moment in a state of rapid transition; as the proportion of its free emigrant population is fast increasing, and will probably be doubled in the course of the next five years, through the measures that are now in progress for the encouragement and promotion of emigration to the colonial territory; and as the whole aspect and character of its society will consequently be in all likelihood completely changed, and the influence of the emancipists as a separate and influential class in the community, completely neutralized."

It will be seen that the greater part of this report is applicable to the colony generally; and we are of opinion that nothing but the most wanton mismanagement can retard the rapid advance of this splendid and charming territory; and it is a question if even this could do it for long.

The town of Sydney (as already noticed) is beautifully situated on Sydney Cove, one of the numerous and romantic inlets of Port Jackson, about seven miles from the entrance of the harbour. The headlands at the mouth of the harbour constitute one of the grandest and most interesting features in the natural scenery of the country. To a person approaching the land from the eastward, the coast presents an apparently unbroken line of lofty, precipitous, sand-stone cliffs, along the base of which the mountainous waves of the vast Pacific Ocean dash fearfully when the

wind blows strongly from the eastward, causing dense volumes of spray and whitish vapour to ascend to the summits of the highest cliffs. The entrance is seen at a considerable distance at sea by means of the light-house; but no opening of any kind is visible till you come close in with the land. At a small distance from the Heads, however, an opening is at length perceived in the iron-bound coast, and the idea you unavoidably form of it is, that the cliffs on either side have been violently rent asunder by some mighty convulsion of nature to form a passage for vessels into some place of security.

The entrance at the Heads is about a mile and three quarters wide, but the height of the cliffs, and the idea of boundlessness which the ocean scenery has previously impressed upon the mind, make it appear much narrower. On getting round Marble Head, a point of land stretching out from the southern side of the harbour, and completely concealing the opening from the eye of an observer at a few miles' distance at sea, the scene surpasses description. You immediately find yourself on the bosom of a large lake, extending to a great distance in a westerly direction, with innumerable coves and inlets stretching inland to the right and left; some presenting sandy beaches and grassy lawns; others lined with a barrier of gray rocks, cast in the most fantastic moulds, and surmounted in all directions with most beautiful shrubbery.

Many of the most interesting localities on the shores of Port Jackson, between Sydney and the Heads, are in the hands of private proprietors, and the richly and endlessly diversified beauties of nature which they uniformly exhibit, are in some instances enhanced by the manner in which they appear contrasted with the tasteful habitations of

man. Several neat cottages have been erected by the pilots of Sydney, on a sandy beach immediately behind the South Head. A little nearer the town is the picturesque cottage of Vaucluse; and somewhat nearer still is the splendid villa of Point Piper. On Woolloomoolloo Hill, an elevated projection of the land, situated between Woolloomoolloo and Elizabeth Bays, about a mile from Sydney, on the same side of the harbour, most of the civil officers of the colony have built houses of respectable appearance on allotments granted them for the purpose, the view of which from the water is highly interesting and enlivening; and on the opposite side of the harbour, or what is called the North Shore, a few handsome cottages have also been erected, besides wharfs and stores, belonging to merchants in Sydney connected with the fisheries.

The town of Sydney was originally confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the cove of the same name, which extends only a short distance inland in a southerly direction from the main harbour. At the entrance of the cove there are forts, on the extremities of the two ridges that form its eastern and western shores; the one called Dawes' Battery, and the other Fort M'Quarrie. At the head of the cove these ridges attain a considerable elevation, and on their sloping sides and towering summits, as well as in the valley between, the town of Sydney now extends nearly three miles from Dawes' Battery to the southward, the ridges gradually subsiding till the ground becomes nearly a dead level. The principal streets run in a northerly and southerly direction, parallel to that of the ridges, and are crossed nearly at right angles by other streets that terminate in a second and much more extensive cove to the westward, called Cockle Bay or Darling Harbour. In short, there can scarcely

be imagined a finer situation for a large mercantile community.

Previous to the year 1817 the circulating medium of the colony consisted principally of the private notes of merchants, traders, shopkeepers, publicans, &c., the amount being sometimes as low as six-pence. To remedy this state of things, and the numerous evils consequent thereon, *The Bank of New South Wales* was incorporated by a charter under the seal of the colony in 1817, with a capital of £20,000 sterling, divided into two hundred shares of £100 each. The amount of shares subscribed was £12,600, and notes were issued by the bank, varying in value from half-a-crown to five pounds. £12,193 was the amount of business done in discounting bills during the first year; while in 1818, they amounted to £81,672; in 1819 to £107,256, demonstrating fully the advantages resulting from such an establishment, and the necessity that existed for such pecuniary accommodations. Ten per cent was a common rate of interest. The dividend declared by the bank for 1818, was 12 per cent; for 1819, 21 per cent; for 1820 and 21. 12 per cent; for 1822, 15 per cent. The charter having been granted for seven years, it was renewed. Every shareholder is personally responsible for the whole of the transactions of the bank; by this provision greater stability is given to the institution, while a more careful management of its proceedings is secured.

The New South Wales Bank seldom advances money upon personal security, nor does it allow any interest upon current accounts. The nominal capital of the bank is £150,000. The amount of capital paid up is about £35,000:

• Its affairs are managed by a president and eleven directors, who are elected by the shareholders from

their own number. Each shareholder has a vote for every £50 paid.

The success of this establishment has been unprecedented. Almost from its commencement it has yielded a dividend of from 15 to 20 per cent ; a rate of interest which, considering that its transactions are restricted to discounting bills of a short date, must be highly satisfactory to those concerned ; and it is a remarkable fact that the New South Wales Bank has never sustained any actual losses through the non-payment of the paper discounted. The bank discounted at the rate of eight per cent up to 1824 ; since which period it has been raised to ten per cent. The colonial government makes and receives all payments in specie only in the colony. In consequence of this and the remittances of specie to those places with which a trade is carried on by the colonists, this bank has, more than once, been under the necessity of suspending the payment of specie on demand. It is a fact highly creditable to the bank, and to the colonists generally, that owing to the severe drought which occurred during the panic in 1826, and which continued for three years, there were bills over due to the bank amounting to £18,000, while the whole capital at the time was only about £22,000 ; the confidence of the public however, was so great, that by prudent management, not a penny of the overdue bills was lost, and the bank continued all the time to pay the usual dividend of from 15 to 20 per cent. Such however was the confidence of the public in the stability of the establishment, that there was no run upon the bank on any of the occasions when it suspended cash payments ; on the contrary, the colonists poured into its coffers all the cash they could collect, and by refraining as much as possible from demanding it, the bank was

soon enabled to resume its payments, and carry on its usual business.

The notes issued by this establishment amount to about £20,000, varying in value from £1 to £30; the greater proportion being £1 notes.— Since 1826, when dollars and rupees were current, all the cash transactions of New South Wales has been done in sterling money, British coin only being used.

The Bank of Australia was established in 1826, with a capital of £220,000, divided into shares, of which about £50,000 has been paid up. Like the Bank of New South Wales, it is a Bank of issue and deposit; its transactions being limited to cashing bills of a short date. It affords no facilities for remittances to Europe, or elsewhere. This bank discounts from 16 to £12,000 weekly, at 10 per cent., which is the current rate of interest. It has been highly prosperous, and has, since its commencement, paid a dividend of from 12 to 15 per cent. The notes, issued by this bank, amount to about £25,000, varying from £1. up to £50. One-fifth of the nett profits is reserved for a sinking fund.

The highly prosperous state of these two banks may be judged of, from the fact, that ten shares of the New South Wales Bank were sold at 95 premium; and twenty-eight of the Bank of Australia at a premium of 75 to 80.

The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney was established November, 1834, with a capital of £300,000, divided into 3,000 shares of £100 each. This bank, besides discounting bills, advances cash on security; and allows an interest of 4 per cent., on current accounts.

- A London company, called *The Bank of Australia* was incorporated by royal charter, March,

1834. This bank, with a capital of £200,000, was established for the purpose of instituting banks of issue and deposit in New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and other settlements in Australasia. The management of the company's affairs is vested in the London Board of Directors, appointed by the proprietors; and the banks in the colonies are conducted by local directors, and other persons duly qualified appointed by the directors in London. The Bank of Australia commenced business in the colony, December 14, 1835. Capital, £200,000 paid up. Interest allowed on current accounts at the rate of 4 per cent., per annum.

The paper currency, in circulation, consists of the Bank of New South Wales, Bank of Australasia, Bank of Australia, and Commercial Bank. All these banks, except the Bank of Australasia, are joint-stock banks, the shares in which are transferable. The notes are all of sterling denomination, and are convertible into British money on demand.

Australian Marine Assurance Company, established January, 1831, capital £140,000, £14,000 paid up.

Union Assurance Company of Sydney, established January, 1836, capital £250,000, in 5000 shares.

Besides these there are a number of other Fire and Life Insurances, conducted similarly to those in all large towns.

The situation of Sydney adapts it for the capital of a commercial empire. Port Jackson is, as we have already noticed, one of the finest harbours in the world; its entrance is three quarters of a mile wide, after which it extends into a capacious basin, fifteen miles long, and in some places three broad; it is navigable for ships of any burthen at

the distance of fifteen miles from its entrance, viz., seven miles above Sydney, up the Parramatta river, and which, for twelve miles further, can scarcely be considered more than an arm of the sea. Ships come up close to the wharves and warehouses at Sydney, and the cargoes are at once pulled from the ship's hold to the stores. The town is three miles in length, with two-thirds of its circuit enveloped by the navigable river of Port Jackson.

A fine lighthouse was erected on the lofty south head of Port Jackson, by General M'Quarrie, which is called the M'Quarrie Tower, and is considered a master-piece of its kind. It contains a revolving light, and is visible ten or twelve leagues off. Its appearance is thus described by Captain Watson of the ship *Foxhound*:—"On Monday morning last, at 3 A.M., saw the light bearing w.s.w., 38 miles distant, but so brilliant that I thought it could not be more than ten or twelve miles off. It was a certain guide; and, at that distance, had all the appearance of a luminous star." An accurate description of the light and bearings of this light-house was published at the time of its erection, in the year 1818, by the surveyor-general of the colony, for the benefit of the captains of the vessels trading to Port Jackson.—"M'Quarrie Town and lighthouse is situated on the highest part of the outer south head of Port Jackson harbour, in 33 deg. 51 min. 40 sec. south, and longitude 151 deg 16 min. 50 sec. east from Greenwich. The height of the light from the base is 76 feet, and from thence to the level of the sea 277 feet, being a total height of 353 feet. The inner south head bears from the lighthouse N. by W. 3-4 W., distant a mile and a quarter. The outer north head bears from it N. by E. two miles. The inner south head and outer north head lie N.E.

1-2 E., and S.W., 1-2 of each other distant 1 1-10th mile. The light can be seen from S. by E. to N. by E., those lines of bearing clearing the coast line half a point each way, and may be discovered from a ship's deck, on a clear night, eight leagues. The north end of the Sow and Pigs Reef bears from the inner south head S.W. by W. half a mile.

"N.B.—The bearings are magnetic, and the distances computed in nautical miles. The variation 9 deg. easterly."

The approach to Port Jackson is thus described by a visitor :—"The entrance to the port is grand in the extreme. The high dark cliffs we had been coasting along all morning suddenly terminate in an abrupt precipice, called the South Head, on which stand the lighthouse and signal-station.—The North Head is a similar cliff, a bare bluff promontory of dark horizontal rocks, and between these grand stupendous pillars, as through a colossal gate, we entered Port Jackson. The scenery of this noble estuary is much enhanced by the many bays and inlets by which it indents the land. A fresh vista every moment opened to the view, each as it seemed more lovely than the last; the pretty shrubs growing thickly among the rocks, and down to the water's edge, adding infinitely to the effect, especially as they were really green—a thing I had not dared to expect; but it was spring, and every thing looked fresh and verdant. The neighbourhood of Sydney is adorned with villas, enriched with gardens and shrubberies, looking like the pretty *cottages ornée*, near some fashionable English watering-place. With the exception of these, the first appearance of the capital is not promising. The chief part of the city is built on the sides, and at the head of a cove running at right angles with the stream in which we lay

(with the main line of the harbour), which prevented the best parts from being observed; and the main portion of what was visible had an air of 'Wapping' about it by no means engaging." The town of Sydney is described in a lively off-hand manner by this lady, who is astonished at the ladies abandoning a beautiful rustic retreat in the vicinity, called 'The Domain,' for the crowded and dusty street. "No lady in Sydney (your grocers' and butchers' wives included) believes in the possibility of walking, so that the various machines upon wheels, of all descriptions, are very numerous, from the close carriage and showy barouche, or britschka, to the more humble four-wheeled chaise and useful gig. There is but little exercise on horseback, few ladies venturing to risk their complexions to the exposure of an equestrian costume." Among the nuisances to which she says the town is subjected is *dust*. "Unless after a heavy rain, it is always dusty; and, sometimes, when the wind is in a particular point, the whirlpools of thick fine powder that fill every street and house are positive miseries." She also complains of the number of flies and mosquitoes, "to protect one's self from the latter during the night, the same mode, of spreading a gauze curtain over the bed, is adopted, as prevails in the West Indies and in the Southern States of America."

The views from the heights of Sydney are bold, varied, and beautiful. The strange irregular appearance of the town itself, the numerous coves and islets, both above and below it, the towering forests and projecting rocks, combined with the infinite diversity of hill and dale on each side of the harbour, form altogether a coup-d'œil, of which it may safely be asserted that few towns can boast a parallel.

The neighbouring scenery is still more diversified and romantic, particularly the different prospects from the hills on the South Head road, immediately contiguous to the town. Looking towards the coast you behold at one glance the greater part of the numerous bays and islands which lie between the town and the Heads, with the succession of barren, but bold and commanding hills that bound the harbour, and are abruptly terminated by the water. Further north the eye ranges over the long chain of lofty rugged cliffs that stretch away in the direction of the Coal river, and distinctly mark the bearing of the coast, until they are lost but in the dimness of vision. By wheeling round to the south may be beheld at the distance of seven or eight miles, that spacious, though less eligible harbour, called Botany Bay, from the prodigious variety of strange plants which Sir Joseph Banks found in its vicinity, when it was first discovered and surveyed by Captain Cook. To the southward again of this magnificent sheet of water, where it will be recollected it was the original intention, though afterwards judiciously abandoned, to found the capital of this colony, you behold the high bluff hills that stretch away towards the Five Islands, and likewise indicate the ending of the coast in that direction.

By suddenly turning to the westward, a vast forest is seen, uninterrupted except by the openings which have been made by the cultivator's axe, on the summits of some of the loftiest hills, and which tend to diminish those melancholy sensations its gloomy monotony would otherwise inspire. The innumerable undulations in this vast expanse of forest forcibly remind the beholder of the mighty ocean when convulsed by tempests; save that the billows of the one slumber in a fixed and leaden stillness, and want that motion which constitutes

the diversity, the beauty, and the sublimity of the other. Continuing the view, the eye rests on that commanding chain of mountains called "Blue Mountains," whose stately and overtopping grandeur forms a most imposing boundary to the prospect.

If the visitor proceed on the South Head road, until he arrives at the eminence called "Belle Vue," the scenery is still more picturesque and grand; since, in addition to the striking objects already described, he will behold, as it were at his feet, although still more than a mile distant, the vast and foaming Pacific Ocean. In boisterous weather, the surges that break in mountains on the shore beneath him, form a sublime contrast to the still, placid waters of the harbour, which in this spot is only separated from the sea by a low sandy neck of land not more than half a mile in breadth; yet is so completely sheltered, that no tempests can ruffle its tranquil surface.

Parramatta, the second town in the colony, is situated at the head of Port Jackson harbour, at the distance of about eighteen miles by water, and fifteen by land from Sydney. The river for the last seven or eight miles is only navigable for small craft. This town is built along a small fresh water stream which falls into the river. It is surrounded on the south side by a chain of moderately high hills; and as you approach it by the Sydney road, it breaks suddenly on the view when you have reached the summit of them, and produces a very pleasing effect. The adjacent country has been a good deal cleared; and the gay mimosas which have sprung up in the openings, forms a very agreeable contrast to the gloom of the forest that surrounds and overtops them. It was in Parramatta the first harvest in New South Wales was reaped.

The town itself is far behind Sydney, both in size, and in respect of its buildings; but it nevertheless contains many of a good and substantial construction. These, with the church, the Government House, the King's College, the Orphan house, and some gentlemen's seats which are situated on the surrounding eminences, give it, upon the whole, a very respectable appearance. There are also several good inns, where a traveller may meet with all the comfort to be found in similar places elsewhere.

The population is principally composed of inferior traders, publicans, artificers, farmers and labourers, and may be estimated, exclusive of a company of soldiers always stationed here, on a rough calculation at eight thousand.

There are two fairs held here half yearly, in March and in September, chiefly for the sale of stock, for which every convenience is provided at the expense of the government.

The public institutions are the King's College, an Hospital, a Female Orphan house, several primary and infant schools, a Roman Catholic School, &c. There is likewise a factory in which such of the female convicts as misconduct themselves, and those also, who upon their arrival in the colony are not immediately assigned as servants to families, are employed in manufacturing coarse cloth. There are upon an average upwards of one hundred women employed in this institution, which is placed under the direction of a superintendent. The transportation system having been amended, it is expected that ere long this building will be employed for other purposes than it is at present.

There is another institution in this town well worthy the notice of the philanthropist. It is a school for the education and civilization of the

aborigines of the country. It was founded by Governor M'Quarrie, and eighteen native children were voluntarily placed in it by their parents, who were making equal progress in their studies with European children of the same age. The following extract, from the Sydney Gazette, will enable the reader to form some opinion of the beneficial consequences that are likely to result from this institution, and how far they may realise the benevolent intentions which actuated its philanthropic founder.

“On Saturday the town of Parramatta exhibited a novel and very interesting spectacle by the assembling of the native tribes there, pursuant to the governor's gracious invitation. At ten in the morning the market place was thrown open, and some gentlemen who were appointed on the occasion took the management of the ceremonials. The natives having seated themselves on the ground in a large circle, the chiefs were placed on chairs a little advanced in front, and to the right of their respective tribes. In the centre of the circle thus formed, were placed large tables, groaning under the weight of roast beef, potatoes, bread, &c., and a large cask of grog lent its exhilarating aid to promote the general festivity and good humour which so conspicuously shone through the sable visages of this delightful congress. The governor, attended by all the members of the native institution, and by several of the magistrates and gentlemen in the neighbourhood, proceeded at half past ten to the meeting, and having entered the circle, passed round the whole of them, inquiring after, and making himself acquainted with the several tribes, their respective leaders and residences. His excellency then assembled the chiefs by themselves, and confirmed them in the rank of chieftains to which their

own tribes had exalted them, and conferred upon them badges of distinction. By the time this ceremony was over, the governor's lady arrived, and the children belonging to, and under the care of, the native institution, fifteen in number, were introduced, preceded by their teacher; the children appeared very clean, well clothed and happy. The chiefs were then again called together to observe the examination of the children as to their progress in learning, and the civilised habits of life. Several of the little ones read; and it was grateful to the bosom of sensibility to trace the degree of pleasure which the chiefs manifested on the occasion. Some clapped the children on the head; and one in particular, turning round towards the governor with peculiar emotion, exclaimed, 'Governor, that will make a good settler,—that's my pickaninny!' The examinations being finished, the children returned to the institution.

"The feasting then commenced, and the governor retired amidst the loud shouts of his sable and grateful congress. Three more children were placed in the institution, making the number now in that establishment eighteen."

The same paper, of a later date, says, "Tuesday last, an anniversary school examination took place at Parramatta, at which the children of the Native Institution were introduced, their number not exceeding twenty; while the schools of European children amounted to nearly one hundred. Prizes were prepared for distribution among such of the children as should be found to excel in the early rudiments of education, moral and religious, and it is not less strange than pleasing to remark, in answer to an erroneous opinion, which had long prevailed with many, viz., that the aborigines of

this country were unsusceptible of any mental improvement which could qualify them for the purposes of civilised association, that a black girl of fourteen years of age bore away the second prize, with much satisfaction to the worthy adjudgers and auditors."

Three or four stage coaches and two steamboats ply daily between Sydney and Parramatta; and there are also two daily coaches between Sydney and Liverpool—a rising town about twenty miles distant from the capital, forming a thoroughfare for the extensive country to the south-westward. One of the Parramatta coaches proceeds daily to Windsor, on the Hawkesbury—a distance of thirty-five miles further inland, and there are also conveyances of a similar kind from Sydney to Bathurst, twice a week, and from Sydney to Yass, a distance of 180 miles to the south-westward. Respectable persons travelling to and from the more distant settlements in the interior, generally travel on horseback, or in vehicles of their own; and goods and produce are conveyed to and from Sydney &c., on large drays drawn by oxen.

The most rising town in all Australia is Melbourne, the capital of Australia Felix, situated on the Yarra Yarra, eight miles above William Town, which is on Port Philip lake, one of the most magnificent harbours in the world. At the end of eighteen months from its first settlement it contained 350 houses of from two to four stories. The following extract of a letter will give the reader some idea of this thriving town. "I am quite delighted with this beautiful Melbourne. Enthusiastic as I was regarding the extraordinary advantages of this favoured province, I almost, upon my approaching it, had some misgivings that the reality would, as

alas, is too frequently the case, involve the bitterness of disappointment; the reality, however, in this instance, far surpassed my most sanguine expectations, and every day's experience confirms me in my favourable opinion of this Australia Felix. The appearance of Melbourne is positively wonderful; a foreigner unacquainted with the enterprising, determined, obstacle-surmounting character of our countrymen, could never believe that it was the creation of eighteen months' industry! The wand of the magician could not have effected a change more wondrous. If all the towns on the road from Sydney to Yass were put together—Liverpool, Campbell Town, Goulbourne, and Yass, they would not make so respectable a town as Melbourne now is. The commercial importance of Melbourne is evident from the activity of its inhabitants, and the number of ships and vessels that visit its port (i. e. Port Philip).

“A powerful steam ship, to trade between this and the neighbouring settlements, is exceedingly required, and would pay her owners a handsome profit. I have just returned from a delightful boat excursion on the beautiful Yarra Yarra, the scenery on the banks of which is most attractive We feel perfectly convinced that the country around or connected with Port Philip, is a finer tract than any of a similar extent in Australia, and better situated in point of locality. It is destined to become one of the most flourishing provinces on the continent.” Nor has this prediction been disappointed, and Melbourne, with its fine port, has become one of the greatest rivals to Sydney; nor is this to be wondered at when we consider the many advantages it enjoys; but, to say the truth, every town in this important colony is in a most flourishing state; which will be best proved by the great increase of

population, which we take from parliamentary returns :—

In 1788, the first year in which this colony was settled, the population was	1030
1838, the number of inhabitants was	114,386
1848,	210,474

Showing an increase of 93 per cent during the last ten years.

It has frequently been doubted, nay, even denied, that the physical improvement of New South Wales has been promoted by the transportation of British convicts to its shores, a system now abandoned by the government. In our opinion the improvement has been great, while the moral vitiation has been slight—more imaginary than real. To the person who wishes either a profitable investment for his capital; or to the industrious artizan or labourer desirous of obtaining remunerative wages for his labour, it must be of the greatest importance to such, to learn how in this promising colony these objects are most effectually to be gained. For centuries yet to come the spirit of enterprise, it is evident, cannot be daunted, nor the hand of industry idle for the lack of employment.

For many years after the first settlement of the colony, the trade consisted merely in the importation of such articles of British manufacture or foreign produce as were required for the internal consumption of the convicts, military, and free settlers. These articles were imported by merchants, who had taken up their abode in Sydney in the earlier times of the settlement, and who disposed of them to the colonial dealers, who again retailed them to the inhabitants; the money expended by the British government for the support

of the convicts, and the pay and subsistence of the civil and military establishments, was the only source to which all parties looked for their ultimate payment. This state of things continued until so late a period as the government of Sir T. Brisbane, 1821-25 ; for, although a few seal skins, a few tons of oil, and a few bales of wool, had been occasionally exported previous to that period, the chief, if not the sole profit of the colonial merchant, was the expenditure of British money. The colonists have however at last a staple export, which is rapidly increasing, and promises in a short period to suffice for all their wants, and to render them independent of the sums afforded them by the expenditure of the government, viz, the fleeces of their flocks, which are found to contain all the qualities that constitute the excellence of the Saxon and Spanish wool. The sheep-holders in general have become sensible of the advantage of directing their attention to the improvement of their flocks ; and if their exertions be properly seconded, there can be no doubt that the ample supply of fine wool, which the parent country from year to year receive from the colony, well repay her for the care and expense she bestowed on it during the protracted period of its infancy.

Sheep-farming, therefore, constitutes the principal dependence of the New South Wales landholder ; and the peculiar adaptation of the soil and climate to the growth of wool on the one hand, and the unlimited demand for that important article of colonial produce on the other, not only in Great Britain, but in France and America, will doubtless render it expedient that he should make it the first object of his attention. Where the country consists of open plains destitute of timber, a thousand sheep are entrusted to the care of one shepherd ;

but on account of the scarcity of such servants, as many as 1500, even 2000 have been made to run together. The sheep are folded in a pen, constructed of moveable hurdles, at night: and to prevent them from being attacked by the native dog, the shepherd, attended by his dogs, sleeps in a moveable covered berth, outside the fold. The lambing season is in some instances in the commencement of winter, but more frequently in the beginning of summer. The shearing of the sheep always takes place at the latter season; a fleece generally weighs from two to two and a half pounds. The wool is packed in bales, wrapped in canvas, and sent off to Sydney for exportation. Some of the more extensive sheep-farmers send their wool direct to their agents in London, where it is sold according to its quality, at from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings and twopence per lb. The freight to London does not exceed three halfpence a pound. It is generally, however, either bought or received for consignment by the colonial merchants, some of whom employ porters to assort and repack it for the London market. The number of sheep in New South Wales will probably not be less than from twelve to fifteen millions; and settlers deriving annual incomes from £400 to £500 to as many thousand pounds, from this source alone, are now to be met with all over the colony.

The introduction of wool, the chief staple product, into the colony, was owing to the late Mr. John M'Arthur. So long back as 1793, that enterprising gentleman became convinced that the grasses and climate of New South Wales were adapted to Merino sheep; and about two years after he obtained a ram and two ewes from Captain Kent, who had brought them, with some other stock, for the supply of the settlement, from the

Cape of Good Hope, to which place some of the pure breed had been sent by the Dutch government. Mr. M'Arthur immediately began to cross his coarse fleeced sheep with the Merino, and in ten years his flock, which consisted originally of 70 Bengal animals, was increased to 4000, although the wethers were slaughtered as they became fit for food. In 1803, Mr. M'Arthur revisited England, exhibited samples of his wool to a committee of manufacturers, who happened to be in London at the time, and it was so much approved that Mr. M'Arthur appeared before the privy council, and laid before them his plans for rendering England independent of foreign countries for a supply of the best wools. The following is Mr. M'Arthur's statement :—

“The samples of wool brought from New South Wales having excited the particular attention of the merchants and principal English manufacturers, Captain Macarthur considers it his duty respectfully to represent to his majesty's ministers, that he has found, from an experience of many years, the climate of New South Wales peculiarly adapted to the increase of fine woolled sheep ; and that from the unlimited extent of luxuriant pastures with which that country abounds, millions of those valuable animals may be raised in a few years with but little other expense than the hire of a few shepherds.

“The specimens of wool that Captain Macarthur has with him, have been inspected by the best judges of wool in this kingdom, and they are of opinion that it possesses a softness superior to many of the wools of Spain ; and that it certainly is equal, in every valuable property, to the very best that is to be obtained from thence.

"The sheep producing this fine wool are of the Spanish kind, sent originally from Holland to the Cape of Good Hope, and taken from thence to Port Jackson.

"Captain Macarthur being persuaded that the propagation of these animals would be of the utmost consequence to this country, procured in 1797, three rams and five ewes; and he has since had the satisfaction to see them rapidly increase, their fleeces augment in weight, and the wool very visibly improve in quality. When Mr. Macarthur left Port Jackson, in 1801, the heaviest fleece that had then been shorn weighed only $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, but he has received reports of 1802, from which he learns that the fleeces of his sheep had increased to 5 lbs. each; (in the grease the average weight of the fleeces of fine woolled sheep in New South Wales, when washed, is $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs,) and that the wool is finer and softer than the wool of the preceding year. The fleece of one of the sheep imported from the Cape of Good Hope has been valued here at four shillings and sixpence per lb., and a fleece of the same kind bred in New South Wales is estimated at six shillings per lb.

"Being once in the possession of this valuable breed, and having ascertained that they improved in that climate, he became anxious to extend them as much as possible; he therefore crossed all the mixed bred ewes of which his flocks were composed with Spanish rams. The lambs produced from this cross were much improved, but when they were again crossed, the change far exceeded his most sanguine expectations. In four crosses, he is of opinion, no distinction will be perceptible between the pure and the mixed breed. As a proof of the extraordinary and rapid improvement of his flocks, Captain Macarthur has exhibited the fleece of a

coarse woolled ewe, that has been valued at ninepence per lb., and the fleece of her lamb, begotten by a Spanish ram, which is allowed to be worth three shillings per lb.

“Captain Macarthur has now about 4000 sheep, amongst which there are no rams but of the Spanish breed. He calculates they will, with proper care, double themselves every two years and a half; and that in twenty years they will be so increased as to produce as much fine wool as is now imported from Spain and other countries; at an annual expense of £1,800,000 sterling. To make the principle perfectly plain upon which Captain Macarthur founds his expectation, he begs to state that half his flock has been risen from thirty ewes, purchased in 1793, out of a ship from India, and from about 8 or 10 Spanish and Irish sheep purchased since. The other half of his flock were obtained in 1801 by purchases from an officer who had raised them in the same time, and from about the same number of ewes that Captain Macarthur commenced with. This statement proves that the sheep have hitherto multiplied more rapidly than it is calculated they will do in future; but this is attributed to the first ewes being of a more prolific kind than the Spanish sheep are found to be; for since Captain Macarthur has directed his attention to that breed, he has observed the ewes do not so often produce double lambs.

“As a further confirmation of the principle of increase that Captain Macarthur has endeavoured to establish, and which he is positive time will prove to be correct, he would refer to the general returns transmitted from New South Wales. In 1796 (since when not 100 sheep have been imported) 1531 were returned as the public and private stock of the colony. In 1801, 6757 were returned; and

although between these periods all the males have been killed, as soon as they became fit, yet there is a surplus over the calculation of 633.

“ Captain Macarthur is so convinced of the practicability of supplying this country with any quantity of fine wool it may require, that he is earnestly solicitous to prosecute this, as it appears to be an important object, and, on his return to New South Wales, to devote his whole attention to accelerate its complete attainment. All the risk attendant on the undertaking he will cheerfully bear; he will require no pecuniary aid, and all the encouragement he humbly solicits is, the protection of government; permission to occupy a sufficient tract of unoccupied lands to feed his flock, and the indulgence of selecting from amongst the convicts such men for shepherds as may, from their previous occupations, know something of the business.

(Signed) “ JOHN MACARTHUR.”

After the examination of Mr. Macarthur and several gentlemen before the privy council, his views were adopted, and with their encouragement Mr. Macarthur purchased from the Macino flock of his majesty George III., two ewes and three rams, with which he returned to New South Wales in 1806, appropriately calling the vessel, in which his golden fleece was embarked, the “Argo.” Such was the origin of the rapidly increasing flocks of New South Wales, whose numbers are now nearly three millions, and whose wool has brought as high as ten shillings and sixpence per lb. in the London market. Captain Macarthur's prediction has been fully verified in every particular; and it is to his foresight the sheep farmer is indebted for his prosperity.

The reader will find some calculations of the in-

crease of sheep elsewhere ; but we are induced to insert the following which we copy from the *Sydney Herald*.—"We have seen, and probably printed, various calculations touching the increase of sheep. We take, however, the facts which we have this day the pleasure of communicating to our readers, as a much more important and substantial proof of what can be done in our splendid country, with care and attention. Early in April last, Mr. Robert R. Leake, a young gentleman well instructed in pastoral affairs, and formerly employed by the South Australian Company, landed in the province 390 ewes and 10 rams. The dropping of lambs unfortunately commenced after landing, and while the ewes were suffering from the effects of the voyage, so that a considerable number were lost. The produce, however, of the flock, on the 1st of June, amounted to 351 lambs. On the 1st of January last the same ewes lambled the second time, and the produce was 306, making the increase of Mr. Leake's flocks as under :—May 1st. original flock, ewes and rams, 400 ; June 1st. increase, lambs, 351 ; January 1st. increase, lambs, 306 ; actual increase within seven months 657 ; total flock, 1057. The lambs of the first dropping in the colony will produce in August next, along with the imported ewes, and Mr. Leake calculates that his increase of lambs upon the whole flock during that month, will amount to 510, which added to the present stock of 1057, shows an increase upon the original importation of 400, of 1,197 within little more than sixteen months ! Truly it is not surprising that sheep-farming should be eagerly pursued."

But the attention of the colonists is not entirely confined to sheep-farming ; the cultivation of the soil is also attended to, though in a less degree. We

have already pointed out the fertility of the soil in many parts of the colony. The cost of clearing heavily timbered alluvial soil is about £5 an acre, (the system of clearing land is the same as is adopted in Canada,) but a single crop of maize will more than cover that expense. Thinly timbered forest land is of course cleared at less cost. Maize is rarely planted on land of the latter description, and wheat is seldom sown on alluvial land till after one or two crops of maize have been produced. In ordinary seasons, the return of wheat, per acre, varies, according to the nature of the soil and management, from twenty to forty bushels; but as much as fifty bushels an acre have been reaped in the county of Argyle; and a crop at Hunter's river averaged one year thirty-five bushels per acre. In one year lately, in which there was an almost general failure of the crop over a great part of the colony, there was reaped from 150 acres of land 3500 bushels, or $23\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre. Forty acres of that land being the bed of an old lagoon, yielded $1707\frac{1}{4}$, or $42\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre; another field of twenty-two acres produced 567 bushels, or $25\frac{1}{2}$ per acre. However, the average of the colony is not higher than $22\frac{1}{4}$ bushels, of sixty to sixty-five lbs. to the bushel; but in making this statement, we must take into consideration the wretched system of agriculture prevalent in many parts of the territory.

The system of agriculture pursued in this colony does not differ very materially from that which prevails in England. During the earlier stages of these settlements, the hoe husbandry was a necessary evil; but the great increase in the stock of horses and cattle has ultimately superseded the primitive method, and the plough husbandry is now, and has been for many years past, univer-

sally practised. In new lands, it is still unavoidably used during the first year of their cultivation on account of the numerous roots and other impediments to the plough, with which lands in a state of nature invariably abound ; but excepting these occasions, and the instances of settlers who are unable to purchase horses or oxen, and consequently adhere to the original mode of cultivation from necessity, the hoe husbandry is completely exploded. Until the year 1803, eighteen years after the foundation of the colony, plough husbandry was confined to a few of the richest cultivators, from the exorbitant price of cattle. At that period, however, the government herds had so multiplied, that Governor King recommended the adoption of plough husbandry in general orders, and tendered oxen at £28 per head, to be paid either in produce or money at the end of three years, to all such settlers as were inclined to purchase them. This custom was followed by some of his successors ; but as they made no abatement from his first price, and as cattle could be obtained at one third of the price elsewhere, such only of the colonists availed themselves of the indulgence as had no ready means of purchase, and were allured by the length of the credit.

Wheat, maize, barley, oats, and rye, are all grown in this colony ; but the two former are most cultivated. The climate appears to be rather too warm for the common species of barley and oats ; but the poorer soils produce them of a tolerably good quality. The skinless barley or Siberian wheat arrives at very great perfection, and is in every respect much superior to the common species of barley ; but the culture of this grain is limited to the demand which is created for it by the colonial breweries ; the Indian corn or maize, being more

productive than barley and oats, and the season for planting it being two months later, than for any other sort of grain, the settler has every motive for giving it the preference. Wheat may be sown any time from February to July, and even as late as August, if the month be moist; but the best months are April, May, and June. The red and white lammas, and the Cape or bearded wheat, are the species generally cultivated. June is the best month for sowing oats, but they may be sown till the middle of August. Indian corn or maize may be planted from the end of September to the middle of December, but October is the best month. The average produce of this grain, on rich flooded land, is from eighty to a hundred bushels per acre. On forest lands, however, the crops are not so productive, unless the ground be well manured; but the wheat, barley, and oats grown on this land are much heavier and superior in quality. The difference in weight in wheat grown on forest and flooded lands is, upon an average, no less than 8lbs. per bushel, the former sort weighing 64lbs. and the latter only 56lbs.

From what we have already said, it must be evident, that the field of exertion for the agriculturist in New South Wales, is sufficiently extensive. With every variety of climate and soil, all that the colony requires is only a numerous and industrious population, to enable it to produce in abundance all that is requisite for the sustenance and comfort of man. Enterprise, of which there is at this moment no lack in the colony, will in due time, discover a thousand channels for the profitable outlay of capital, and for the acquisition of wealth.

A country possessing so many resources, and occupying one of the most commanding positions on the globe, cannot but exercise a powerful influ-

ence on the interests and destinies of mankind. The convicts will, in some respects, have performed their proper part in the system of colonisation, by having cleared away many of the most formidable obstacles incidental to a first settlement. They have acted as pioneers for colonists of a better description; the tide of healthy and virtuous emigration, which is now setting in, will impart a new principle of existence; under its renovating influence, fresh resources, moral as well as physical, will be rapidly developed, and honest persevering industry will meet with its reward, and be enabled to eat pleasant bread, and to acquire that competency which is most conducive to the progress of society, and the real welfare of man.

To a person of industry, and active habits, there can be little difficulty in making a choice of a situation in this country for the exercise of his abilities. Whether he already possesses capital, or goes to New South Wales trusting to the strength of his own arm, and the energy of his own mind, any of the pastoral districts will answer his purpose. Those especially in the prime of life, who have a rising family, can scarcely commit a mistake, whichever of the great colonisation fields in *all* Australia they may select, as the advantages and disadvantages of each will be found to counterbalance one another. With regard to the selection of a precise spot, residence in the colony, employment in conjunction with others, and extensive travelling, will form the safest guides in enabling the intending settlers to make a selection.

Unless for tradesmen, to form a permanent residence in the towns, and to expect profitable employment there, should form an object of desire to none. Lingerin^g in them for a protracted period has proved the ruin and blasted the hopes of many.

Those whose inclinations and habits would lead them to such a course had far better remain at home, as here they will find city occupation more abundant, and counter-balanced by still fewer city temptations. If the settler arrives in Sydney without an appointment to some profitable situation in his pocket, and destitute of friends to whom he can look for advice and assistance, he will find every hour of his delay there a destructive drain on his capital ; or what is infinitely worse, the irrecoverable loss of his time. The hospitalities of Sydney are great, and there are many individuals of fortune who keep open house for any person of respectable connexions, and who has been well recommended ; the idlers among the taverns and grog-shops (of which Sydney can boast its full share,) are numerous, and many unprofitable means can be devised to tempt the unwary emigrant from the path of industry. But whether his capital is in his pocket or in his hand, this must soon come to an end ; and the result is in all cases equally disastrous ; if in search of a situation, he will find all that hold out the slightest and most distant prospect of emolument are speedily filled up by the resident population. There are many who from the variety of their former pursuits, and the versatility of their habits, who have experienced so many ups and downs, and who become ready to turn their hands to any thing, no matter what, by which either subsistence or money can be obtained, that in the struggle to seize upon any chance of advancement, the new comer runs a great risk of being crushed in the crowd. There are some of the convict population who, from the smallest beginnings, and by allowing no opportunity of turning the penny to pass, have amassed great wealth ; but we would think little of the character of any free emigrant who should

choose to pursue this course ; indeed, to indulge the prospect of success in such a course would be next to madness. Strict honesty, and persevering industry, properly directed, will be fully rewarded.

It is equally the same whether the settler proceeds north to the Hunter, or even to M'Quarrie River, west to Bathurst, or south to Argyle and Port Philip, he will find no want of employment ; and that should be his first object, even before property. Land can be purchased at any time ; but, even with a moderate capital, it is more advantageous to be employed for a while in the service of another, before he attempts the improvement of his own property. Nor does his capital require to be unemployed while he is thus, as it were, serving his apprenticeship ; his money can be safely and profitably invested in sheep, which he can assign to the care of an active and trustworthy individual, of whom there are many ready to undertake the task, on the condition of receiving one-third of the increase, and one-third of the wool. After the lapse of three years, this plan will be found to have returned, on the most moderate calculation, not less than from 70 to 80 per cent, which will enable him to stock land of his own purchase, with the additional advantage of his previous knowledge of the localities, and the mode of living in the country. This is no mere supposition, but the result of experience. It would be folly for the new proprietor to commence land-improver. All the money spent either in draining or damming water, in fencing or in building, may be sunk never more to be seen ; but invested in sheep, in the neighbourhood of unappropriated land, cannot fail to yield most profitable produce ; if the settler can take care of his own sheep, they will yield him a handsome return. At present there is plenty of

grass in the interior : sheep feed upon grass ; and, in this country, grass costs nothing. With care and attention, living a life of industry and temperance, he himself following, washing, and shearing his own sheep, (buying nothing and building nothing, owning neither a stone nor an acre in any part of the colony,) the new settler cannot but succeed. The sacrifice may be great, and the inconveniences numerous, but with resolution and perseverance pursuing such a course, success, though slow, is certain. Sheep-farming will, for a long time at least, stand at the head of rural industry in New South Wales ; and by proper management, it can generally be reckoned to return 80 per cent. annually. There is no calling in the mother country to compare to this. In the language of Mr. James,—“ It surpasses even grog-selling, bullock-driving, or banking, with the optional clause in the notes. The only thing it requires is ready money to begin with, and the strictest attention afterwards to the sheep, with personal superintendence and constant dressing when diseased. With this, and a good look-out after the wild native dogs, there is a fortune to be made in any part of Australia by sheep-farming. The following statement of the increase in a large flock was drawn up by a friend of the author, and is nothing more than the true account, casualties excepted ; but, as before mentioned, the casualties are to the careless !”

*Statement of the probable Increase of a Flock of
2000 Ewes, the same to be delivered May 1st, 1849.*

1849.		Females.	Males.
May 1.	To Lambs in Sept. original flock	2000	
Sept.	80 per cent of Lambs	800	800
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2800	800
	Deduct $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent loss for the six months in casualties	70	20
		<hr/>	<hr/>
1850.		2730	780
Sept.	80 per cent increase of Lambs from the original stock	800	800
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3530	1580
	Deduct 5 per cent for casual losses for twelve months	176	79
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total flock in eighteen months		3354	1501
1851.			
Sept.	Lambs from the original flock, deducting 5 per cent from 2000 Ewes	760	760
	The Lambs dropt in Sept. 1848, will now have Lambs, de- ducting 20 per cent	256	256
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		4370	2517
	Deduct 5 per cent casual losses	218	126
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total flock in two and a half years		1152	2391
1852.			
Sept.	Lambs from the original flock, deducting 10 per cent from 2000 Ewes	720	720
	Lambs from the first dropt Lambs, deducting 5 per cent from 800	304	304
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Lambs from the second dropt Lambs, deducting 20 per cent from 800	256	256
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		5432	3671
	Deduct 5 per cent casual losses	272	183
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total flock in three years and a half		5160	3488

Thus, in the course of three years and a half, his two thousand sheep produce the enormous number of 8648, independent of the wool, each fleece of which weighs from two to two and a half pounds, and sells in London at from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings and two-pence per pound, deducting three halfpence for carriage there. Similar statements have been amply corroborated by many practical sheep-farmers in New South Wales.

He continues thus for a few years, until he is able to purchase or rent a farm of his own; and in this manner a comfortable independence is sure to reward the industry of a few years.

The district of Bathurst is possessed of great facilities for the adoption of this plan, being capable of receiving, for an almost indefinite number of years, an increasing population, who will, for a very long period, merely affect the value of the land, without pressing upon the means of subsistence, or the price at which they can be produced or purchased.

The plain of Bathurst is traversed in the direction of its length by the river M'Quarrie, which pursues a meandering course along the plains, having its banks ornamented with a handsome, though rather melancholy-looking tree, called the *Sweep-Oak*. The level plain extends to the right, almost as far as the eye can reach, like a large lake, with a belt of forest skirting its deeply indented shores, while numerous flocks of sheep and herds of cattle roam in every direction over its luxuriant pastures. The houses of respectable settlers, with their extensive farm-buildings and out-houses, their orchards and their cultivated land, are seen at irregular distances all over the plains; whilst the numerous turf-built, thatched, and white-washed

cottages of the smaller settlers tend materially to enliven the scene.

The great extent of naturally clear land of superior quality now forms the chief attraction in this district; but the difficulties of the mountain road, at first, could only be overcome by men possessed of energy and capital. The Bathurst county was on that account apportioned out, for the most part, in grants of two thousand acres each, to families of capital; and the district still continues to maintain its respectability; besides these wealthy families, however, there are many small settlers residing on different parts of Bathurst Plains of whom not a few, by their attention and industry, have made themselves comfortable and independent; though there are also some distinguished only for their idleness and dissipation. A settlement of veteran soldiers was formed by the colonial government, at a place called the *Black Rock*, and from the indulgences afforded them, as a reward for their past services, it was expected that they would have made themselves independent; but this expectation was only realised by very few. A number of small settlers, of a more hopeful character, were located in *Queen Charlotte's Vale*, a valley communicating with the plains on the farther side of the river, and approaching the nearest in its original state to the *beau ideal* of natural scenery. It is traversed for several miles by a small rivulet, which empties into the M'Quarrie river, the native grass on either side of which has a verdant appearance quite refreshing to the eye; and trees of moderate height, of highly graceful foliage, are disposed at irregular intervals over its whole extent, so as to produce the most picturesque effect imaginable.

The locality occupied by the public buildings at Bathurst, around which a town of considerable size

and importance has been formed, is called the *Settlement*. In the immediate neighbourhood of the Settlement, the late colonial government granted a few small lots of land as home stations, to several extensive proprietors in the surrounding country. Had this practice been earlier introduced it would have had the happiest effects, by bringing all the respectable proprietors of a large extent of country within a moderate distance of each other, and within reach of religious instruction, and of an education for their children superior to what families so much scattered can possibly obtain; while their numerous flocks could have ranged over the surrounding pastoral country for hundreds of miles, without let or hindrance. Indeed the peculiar adaptation of the plains of Bathurst is so obvious, and the adoption of that purpose would have proved so conducive to the welfare of the colony, that it is matter of surprise, that the idea should not have suggested itself to the previous governors, by all of whom the crown lands of the Bathurst district were, with only a very few exceptions, irrecoverably alienated in large tracts, reckless of the welfare of its future inhabitants.

Several of the more extensive wool-growers in the Bathurst district keep their carriages; the expense of maintaining which in New South Wales is trifling when compared with England. This of course gives the plains rather a *distingué* appearance. The cottages of some of the settlers (for such is the general style of building in the interior,) would do credit to some of the most fashionable suburbs of London. While the openness of the country around is rather more favourable for hunting and shooting than most other parts of the territory—with the exception of Argyle and Liverpool Plains—it has, by the progress of emigration, re-

ceived many improvements, which to an individual possessed of capital, present many inducements. The kangaroo and the emu, (a bird resembling the ostrich) are hunted with dogs: they are both feeble animals, but they are not altogether destitute of the means of defence: in addition to their swiftness of foot, which they possess in common with the hare and the ostrich of other countries, the emu has great muscular power in his long iron limbs, and can give an awkward blow to his pursuer, by striking out behind like a young horse; while the kangaroo, when brought at bay with the dogs, rests himself on his strong muscular tail, seizes the dog with his fore feet, and, thrusting at him with one of his hind feet, which is armed for the purpose with a single sharp-pointed hoof, perhaps lays his side completely open. When hotly pursued the kangaroo sometimes takes to the water, where, if he happens to be followed by a dog, he has a singular advantage over all other quadrupeds of his own size, from his ability to stand erect in pretty deep water. In this position he waits for the dog, and when the latter comes close to him, he seizes him with his fore feet, and presses him under the water till he is drowned. The bustard or native turkey is occasionally shot in the Bathurst country. It sometimes weighs eighteen pounds, and differs from the common turkey in the flesh of the legs being white, whilst that of the breast is dark coloured. In addition to the foregoing, we are enabled to give the following account of the sporting at Bathurst, from a recent traveller:—

“Bream is caught in the rivers; bites very fast, and is nearly as large as the salt-water fish of the same name. Game is plentiful: ducks, snipes, widgeon, teal, abounding near the rivers. I saw eight ducks brought down at one shot, weighing,

as I guessed, four pounds each. These are delicious eating. Sometimes the settlers will throw up a breast-work of boughs, near some favourite rendezvous of the birds, close to the water, and when they have collected near the spot, the sportsman fires from behind his battery, and does dreadful mischief among them—forty ducks having been brought down in this manner from one fire. The plover and red-winged pigeon are very numerous, and easily shot; the latter, especially, is a beautiful creature, and twice the size of the domestic pigeon, looks well and eats well at table. But the best sport at Bathurst is the quail—this is the partridge-shooting of New South Wales generally, but the Bathurst settlers seem to enjoy it in perfection, having a greater scope of clear open country. The cockatoo and magpie also abound at Bathurst, and are a great nuisance to the cultivated fields. In the forest country a variety of parrots, of the most beautiful plumage, fly about in every direction. This abundance of the feathered tribe was the more remarkable, as, in a late journey to Hunter's River, very few birds of any kind were seen. There is a hunt at Bathurst for enjoying the sport after the kangaroo, and exterminating the wild dog."

This locality has approached so much to what is supposed the highest degree of European refinement, that a club was lately formed, but which, with all the facilities afforded for enjoying the sports of the field, was found ill to accord with the industrious habits of the settlers, and the permanent improvement of the district, and the "Bathurst Hunt," was allowed to die a natural death.

The Plain of Bathurst is upwards of two thousand one hundred feet above the level of the sea. This elevation is remarkably conducive to the

general health of the district, Bathurst being unquestionably the Montpelier of New South Wales. For persons exhibiting a tendency to *phthisis pulmonalis* medical men consider the climate of Bathurst as perhaps the most favourable in the world, both for the mild temperature and the rarefaction of the air. A gentleman possessed of considerable property in the Bathurst district had long been a victim to an asthmatic affection in the mother country, and was so ill during his residence in Sydney, that he could not venture to go to bed, but had uniformly to spend the night leaning his head on his arms on a table; on ascending the Blue Mountains, however, he found, to his great surprise and delight that the distressing affection had completely left him. He resided for several years in perfect health in the Bathurst district; but on occasionally coming to Sydney on business, he found that the complaint uniformly returned when he reached a certain level in descending towards the low country on the coast. All medical and scientific men agree that such a result, which was not influenced even by the weather, could only be produced by the diminished density and uniform salubrity of the atmosphere, so characteristic of this portion of the world.

The direct distance from Sydney to the town of Wollongong, in the district of Illawarra, (or the Five Islands, as it is frequently called, from five small islands on that part of the coast) is not more than fifty-five miles; and the communication between the two places, is managed, except by travellers, chiefly by water; but as the intervening country is intersected by numerous ravines, as well as by several arms of the sea, the road to Illawarra describes two sides of an equilateral triangle, of which the coast line forms the base—runs for a cer-

tain distance to the south-westward, and then suddenly breaking off eight points to the south-eastward, after heading the ravines. The distance by land is therefore about seventy miles, the road passing through the towns of Liverpool and Campbelltown.

The town of Liverpool is situated on the banks of George's River, at the distance of eighteen miles from Sydney. It was founded during the government of General M'Quarrie. The river is about half the size of the Hawkesbury, and is navigable for boats of twenty tons burthen as high up as the town. It empties itself into Botany Bay, about fourteen miles to the southward of the Heads of Port Jackson. The town is a flourishing place, but Liverpool-Road will be found very uninteresting, and is more polluted by the appearance of the grog-shops, than it is adorned with the cottage, or redeemed by the hospital founded by Sir T. Brisbane, so benevolently projected, but so inauspiciously placed.

The distance from Liverpool to Campbelltown is thirteen miles: and along the whole intervening line of road there are neat cottages, at irregular intervals, belonging in general to resident proprietors. In the immediate neighbourhood, the country, which consists of a succession of hills and dales, has much more of an English aspect than most other parts of the territory, and the proportion of cleared land is very considerable. The district of Campbelltown is, however, unfortunately situated in regard to water; the soil of the surrounding country being strongly impregnated with alum, which renders the water brackish. But the evil is not without remedy; and Mr. Rose, an extensive proprietor in the neighbourhood, has deserved well of the colonists, in pointing out the

efficacy of that remedy, and the practicability of its application. In the neighbourhood of Campbelltown, as well as in many other parts of the colony, the ground is intersected by numerous water-courses, which in rainy seasons contain running streams of considerable size, but which are quite dry at all other times. Across one of these water-courses, Mr. Rose formed a strong embankment, sufficiently broad at the surface to serve the additional purpose of a cart-road, from bank to bank. The result equalled his highest expectations: the embankment has permanently dammed up a large quantity of water, of excellent quality, sufficient to afford an abundant supply at all seasons for his farming establishment, besides forming an ornamental sheet of water in the vicinity of his residence. Water, dammed up in this way, or even collected in large basins formed for the purpose, is not liable to become putrid in New South Wales. There are many farms in the colony that have no other water than what is thus collected from the surface, during heavy rains, in natural basins, or *water-holes*, as they are called by the colonists; the water in such holes remaining pure and wholesome to the last drop. It would be difficult to account for the formation of these natural basins, or reservoirs, some of which are of great depth, and have more the appearance of artificial, than of natural productions; but their existence in all parts of the country is a blessing of incalculable value to the colonial community.

About three miles beyond Campbelltown, to the right, is the dairy-farm or estate of Glenlee.—There is a large extent of cleared land on this estate; the greater part of which has been laid down with English grasses; the paddocks being separated from each other by hedges of quince or lemon-tree.

PORT PHILIP,

CALLED "*VICTORIA*," BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 1850.

PORT PHILIP, called *Australia Felix*, was first surveyed in 1802, though it had been discovered several years before that time, and named after the first governor of the colony, Captain Arthur Philip, R.N., who, as we have already seen, accompanied the first batch of convicts to New South Wales. It is an immense harbour, large enough to accommodate every British fleet that sails, measuring forty miles long, by thirty-five miles broad, and containing little short of 1,000,000 of acres of water. Although this harbour communicates with the ocean by a very narrow entrance, there is occasionally a heavy sea; but there is sufficient water for the largest vessels, as far up as Williamstown, a point near the mouth of the river Yarra Yarra, but which town, unfortunately, is very indifferently supplied with water. There can be no doubt that Port Philip, and the thriving town of Melbourne, is a very rising settlement; and from the richness and fertility of the surrounding country, almost without limit, nothing can prevent its rapid prosperity. Already the sheep amount to 8,000,000; rapidly increasing; and as the means of the settlers who possess these sheep are likewise increasing, it gives employment to the numerous artisans in the town of Melbourne, where several vessels of seventy tons burthen may be seen at all times receiving or discharging cargoes, from the neighbouring ports of Launceston, Hobart Town, and Sydney. The trade is principally with Launceston, however, which is distant only two days' sail, and consists chiefly of passen-

gers backwards and forwards, carrying sheep and lumber from Van Dieman's Land, &c.

Port Philip is situated at the southern extremity of New South Wales, its latitude being 38 deg. south, and its longitude 145 degrees east. It opens into Bass's Straits, and, therefore, lies directly opposite Van Dieman's Land; from the northern capital of which, named Launceston, the distance across the straits is little more than 200 miles. The distance from Sydney is about 500 miles by sea, but by land it does not exceed 250.

Several of the inhabitants of New South Wales, under the auspices of the governor, made an excursion to the south, in 1824-25. After an arduous journey, they reached the coast in the neighbourhood of Port Philip, and found the surrounding country one vast plain, thinly wooded, covered with rank grass, well watered by several streams, and the soil, to all appearance, of the most productive kind.

In 1826, a party of soldiers were sent from New South Wales to take possession, and a small fortification was erected, and afterwards abandoned.

The permanent occupation of this district was ultimately effected by some colonists from Van Dieman's Land, where the rapid increase in the flocks and herds rendered the sheep and cattle-runs very limited; and made the extensive proprietors of the island very anxious to find out some new means of providing for their numerous flocks and herds. They had received the most flattering accounts of the fine pastoral country in the neighbourhood of Port Philip: and on the 12th of May, 1835, they despatched an agent with a number of articles to give in exchange to the natives, together with seven civilized aborigines to act as interpreters.

The agent was successful in his negotiation, and

returned to Van Dieman's Land on the 14th of June, having bartered with the natives for 600,000 acres of land. Vessels were freighted with little delay, and flocks and herds were quickly conveyed to the newly-purchased territory. The British government refused to ratify the treaty, assigning several valid reasons, and Sir Richard Burke, the governor of New South Wales, issued a proclamation, declaring the treaty void, and the parties trespassers.

After this proclamation the Port Philip colony could be considered in no other light than as one composed of squatters. It continued to increase rapidly, notwithstanding; so much so, indeed, that the government, before a year had elapsed, found it necessary to transmit orders to Sir Richard Bourke, to appoint magistrates and other officers, to manage its affairs, and to put the land up for sale at the same price as in other parts of New South Wales.

By the 1st of June, 1836, (one year from the agent's visit), 177 persons had settled at the new colony, and had imported from Van Dieman's Land, sheep, cattle, and other property to the amount of £110,000.

The South Australian Company circulated a pamphlet, entitled "The Great South Land," in which the following observations are made upon Port Philip:—

"Neither in any moral or social point of view, nor as regards systematic regulation or commercial position, can Port Philip compete with South Australia. The former is under the old dispersion and convict system. For the mere *squatter*, who is content to lead a savage life in the wilds, remote from the deencies of society, with no company but his felon dependants, it may, perhaps, be a suitable receptacle."

A few short years gave sufficient proof of the erroneousness of this statement.

The region behind Port Philip, with the river Murray to the South, watered by the Wimmera and the Glenelg on the west, and with the Bay-ungan and the Oveason, meandering to the eastward, is most appropriately designated by the name of Australia Felix.

The Murray, perhaps the largest river in all Australia, arises among the mountains, and receives in its course various other rivers of considerable magnitude. These flow over extensive plains in directions nearly parallel to the main stream, and thus irrigate and fertilise a great extent of country. The current of these rivers, falling as they do from mountains of great height, is perpetual, while, on the other hand, the rivers in other parts of this extensive territory are dried up during the summer season, and seldom deserve any better appellation than chains of ponds.

Hills of moderate height occupy the central country between the Murray and the ocean, thinly or partially wooded, and covered with pasturage of the richest quality. The lower country, both on the northern and southern skirts of these hills, is chiefly open; slightly undulating towards the coast on the south; and, in general, well supplied with water.

The grassy plains which extend northward from these thinly wooded hills, are chequered by the channels of many streams falling from them, and by the more permanent and extensive waters of deep lagoons, which are numerous on the face of these plains, as if intended by an all-merciful Creator to correct the deficiencies of a climate, otherwise too dry for an industrious and increasing people, by preserving in these abundant reservoirs the surplus

water of the large river ; and indeed, it would almost be impossible to find a finer country for the rearing of cattle than this.

In the western portion small rivers radiate from the Grampians, an elevated and isolated mass, presenting no impediment to a free communication through the beautiful and fertile country around its base. Hence that enormous labour, necessary in order to obtain access to some parts, and for crossing contiguous ranges to reach others, by passes like those essential to the prosperity of New South Wales, might be in a great degree dispensed with in that southern region.

Toward the sea coast on the south, and adjacent to the open downs between the Grampians and Port Philip, there is a low tract consisting of very rich black soil, apparently the best imaginable for the cultivation of grain in such a climate.

On part of the low ridges of hills near Cape Nelson and Portland Bay, are forests of very large trees of stringy bark, iron bark, and the useful enclyptus, much of which, it may naturally be expected, is destined to float in ships on the neighbouring ocean.

The character of the country behind Cape Northumberland, affords fair promise of a harbour in the shore to the westward. Such a port would probably possess advantages over any other on the southern coast ; for, a railroad from thence, along the skirts of the interior level country, would require but trifling artificial levelling, and might extend to the tropic of Capricorn, or even beyond it, thus affording the means of expeditious communications between all the fine districts on the interior side of the coast ranges, and a sea port to the westward of Bass's Straits.

The river Murray, fed by the lofty mountains on

the east, carries to the sea a body of fresh water sufficient to irrigate the whole country, and this is in general so level, even to a great distance from its banks, that the abundant waters of the river might probably be turned into canals, for the purpose either of supplying natural deficiencies of water at particular places, or of affording the means of transport across the wide plains.

The high mountains in the east have not been fully explored, but their very appearance is extremely refreshing in a country where the heat is sometimes great. The land is, in short, open and available in its present state for all the purposes of civilised man. Major Mitchell, in the account he published of his Tour in this quarter, says, "We traversed it in two directions, with heavy carts, meeting no other obstruction than the softness of the rich soil, and in returning over flowery plains and green hills, fanned by the breezes of early spring. I named this region Australia Felix, the better to distinguish it from the parched deserts of the interior country where we had wandered so unprofitably and so long."

In approaching from the north-east, after crossing the Murray, and surmounting Mount Macedon, the eye is charmed by most beautiful vistas, gentle slopes wooded in picturesque clumps, and relieved in the distance by towering hills. A great portion of the land is rapidly progressing towards a state of cultivation, and would be still more rapid in its improvement were it not for the want of labourers. One gentleman reports "Agricultural labourers are at the present time (1848) receiving from £40 to £50 per annum, with immense rations &c., but even at these wages they are very scarce, and such as are to be had are, in general so ill behaved and given to liquor, that in many cases it would be far

more profitable for the proprietor to allow the land to remain in its natural state, than to have anything to do with the great majority of agricultural labourers that come to this country. How happy would it be for thousands of sober and industrious labourers in the mother country, could they take their families—the greater number of children the better—to this land of plenty where employment is certain, and at very much higher wages than there is any possibility of them ever obtaining at home. It is *sober* men that are wanted, and if several thousands were coming out for some years, there would be still room for as many more; they would all meet with a cordial welcome.”

In corroboration of this statement we will here make an extract of a letter from a highly respectable and influential house in Sydney: speaking of Port Philip the writer says:—

“The settlers in that quarter are quite at a stand still for want of labourers and mechanics of the ordinary descriptions. A party of very indifferent government emigrants, who were lately sent there by the governor, were immediately engaged at very high wages. A friend of ours on whose judgment and experience of the colony we can depend, writes to us under date 6th. inst., “Labour is the grand commodity which the settlement is now in need of; any common labourer can here command 6s. 6d. to 7s. a day; shepherds cannot be had for less than £40 a year, with full rations; bullock drivers earn a guinea a week, with board and lodgings; bricklayers, masons, quarry-men, carpenters, blacksmiths, and all useful mechanics are in great request. I feel satisfied that a monthly import of two hundred couples with small families, or without children,

would obtain very high wages. Women servants cannot be obtained here—£15 to £20 per annum wages would be readily given by families to female servants of good character.”

A visitor to the bush observes, “Though it is upwards of thirteen years since the first settlers came over here with their sheep from Van Diemen’s Land, and they have continued to come over since the period of prosperity dates, since government have had any establishment or authority here, and within this period its growth has been most rapid. It appears by the records kept since the arrival of a commandant, comptroller of the customs, &c., that the value of imports in the district of Port Philip, had risen in 1845 to £205,390. During the same year the customs duties amounted to £42,536 (no duty is levied on live stock,) and it is calculated that there are (1846—a census of the population being taken every five years) a population of 32,879.* The town (Melbourne) seems crowded with inhabitants, but without habitations. They come so fast, that it is impossible to provide themselves with houses, and they are living in tents and huts, of all manner of shapes. Indeed, no one likes to erect habitations on ground not their own, and which might so soon be brought to public sale by government, so that the place has a most rude and motley appearance. But the lines of the town and streets are now fixed, and allotments disposed of by auction. The competition to secure the allotments has been great, and many persons congregated at the sale. * There were hundreds of persons present, and the half-acre allotments fetched

* The population now cannot be much if any thing under

from £18 to £95 each, averaging £38 each. The buyers immediately commenced to build, and in a very short time a great many houses were erected. There is in the houses of the better classes here a strange mixture of refinement and rudeness. There is not the least style or finish about the buildings, most of them unceiled and unplastered, whilst they contain many elegant and tasteful articles of furniture. There is not the least doubt that this settlement will rise more rapidly than any in this colony was ever known to do, and that it will soon become one of the most important and flourishing districts of the colony. With so much good land in the neighbourhood of a sea port, and with so fine a country for sheep all around it, whilst the elder colonies within any reasonable distance of the coast are already overstocked,* there is nothing can prevent it becoming populated and prosperous. No idea of this part of New Holland was entertained until it was explored, but now it must become one of the most important portions of this island."

Mr. James says—"The first part of the land we explored was, for twenty miles, good for nothing, over stony barren scrubs; but after that, the author arrived in view of Mount Macedon, and found the country every thing, and even more than it had been represented. The whole region of Port Philip seems to be one vast pasture of the most valuable character, and every requisite seems to exist here to raise the character of the district to a place of the first consequence. The only drawback will be labour, which is already well reward-

* We must here entirely dissent from this statement of the writer; so far from being stockless, there is not a district in New South Wales but what could comfortably support twenty times its present population.

ed, and no doubt the demand will go on every year increasing. About Geelong, the 'Campaspe,' or the river 'Plenty,' all grazing speculators must succeed. To use the quaint and affected expression of an elegant young squatter whom the author visited, surrounded with some thousands of sheep, he was getting *disgustingly* rich, and so will others who adopt the same pursuits in this favoured region.

"But the government must be removed from, and made independent of, that of New South Wales.* It is impossible to manage properly an important settlement of this magnitude, nearly three times the extent of Van Dieman's Land, without a separate establishment for Port Philip, or rather Australia Felix, which should be erected into a distinct administration.

Australia Felix is comparatively a recent discovery, which was explored by Major Mitchell. The country begins on the south-eastern boundary of the Commissioners' territory, in 141 degrees east, near the mouth of the Glenelg river, and the place of settlement and township will be Portland Bay. In the months of November, December, January, and February, this bay is unfortunately exposed to the violence of the prevailing easterly winds, which so agitate the sea as to make landing in summer time out of boats disagreeable, and frequently extremely dangerous; but the anchorage is safe and spacious for the remainder of the year. The shore abounds in fresh water, and the interior, for seventy miles back, exhibits one of the richest and most desirable countries in the world, fit for any thing, for either sheep, cattle, or the plough; and being considerably more temperate than St. Vincent's Gulph—the difference of latitude being

* This has been done in 1851.

about the same as between the Thames and the Tweed—Portland Bay is a very agreeable climate, and already exports potatoes, wheat, fat sheep, and cattle. The road from Portland Bay is also good, and well marked all the way to Sydney, a distance of 700 miles, which, for overland communication, is a decided advantage. To the north-east of Portland Bay, and the fine country just spoken of, are good runs for sheep and cattle down to the lakes, and here may be seen large flocks of Van Dieman's Land sheep depasturing all the way up to Mount Macedon, and down to Geelong. The country about Cape Otway is rocky and mountainous. This Cape is opposite to King's Island, and forms the entrance to Bass' Straits, which is only forty miles broad in this part; but at the back of the high lands of the Cape the grass is good, though the fresh water is not so abundant as in the rear of Portland Bay. From the richness and beauty of the land, and the convenience of the bay, it has attracted many valuable settlers. From its vicinity to Van Dieman's Land and South Australia, the rapidity of communication between this portion of New South Wales and the adjacent islands of the Pacific is likely to render it one of the most favourable localities for the emigrant. By sailing from England for Port Philip, the length and expense of the voyage will be found to be considerably less than if Sydney or Adelaide were made the landing point. The voyage through Bass' Straits is now becoming a matter of weekly familiarity, however serious it at one time appeared. It is a question which posterity alone can decide, whether the south or eastern coast should have been fixed upon as the cradle of the infant colony. At the present moment, to the young man of small capital, and unencumbered by a family, who does

not hesitate to betake himself to the bush, and to whom the half-yearly fatigues of sheep-shearing may be an inducement rather than a drawback, Port Philip will now be preferred to Sydney.

The grand interests bound up in the colonisation movement, and those towards which it is to be hoped the ambition of the very humblest emigrant will ultimately tend, is the acquisition of land; we will here give some official information from the Australian Land Acts, respecting the sale of lands.

“AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.—The following are the regulations now in force under the provisions of the Australian Land Act, 5 and 6 Victoria, cap. 36, for the disposal of the Waste Lands in the colonies of New South Wales (including the Sydney and Port Philip districts, and any other district that may hereafter be opened), South Australia and Western Australia:—

“1. All lands will be disposed of by sale alone, and must have, once at least, been exposed to public auction.

“2. The lowest upset price will be not less than £1. per acre; but the government will have power to raise the same by proclamation, though not again to reduce it.

“3. The land will be distinguished into three different classes: viz., Town lots, Suburban lots, and Country lots.

“4. Upon town and suburban lots, as well as upon a proportion, not exceeding one-tenth, of the whole of the country, offered for sale at any auction, the governor will have the power of naming a higher than the general or lowest upset price; the country lots on which such power is exercised to be designated ‘Special Country lots.’

“5. Town and suburban lots will in no case be disposed of except by public auction; but country lots which have already been put up to public auction, and not sold, may be disposed of afterwards by private contract at the upset price.

“6. No lands will be sold by private contract except for ready money. When sold by public auction one-tenth, at least, of the whole purchase money must be paid down, and the remainder within one calendar month, or the deposit will be forfeited.

" 7. Lands will be put up for sale in lots not exceeding one square mile in extent.

" 8. As an exception to the general regulations, and subject to certain restrictions, laid down in the Australian Land Act, the governor will have it in his discretion to dispose, by private contract, at not less than the lowest upset price for the district, of blocks comprising 20,000 acres or more.

" 8. Persons will be at liberty to make payments for colonial lands in this country, for which payment or deposit they will receive an order for credit to the same amount in any purchase of land they may effect in the colony, and will have the privilege of naming a proportionate number of emigrants for a free passage, as explained in the next article. The deposits must be made in one or more sums of £100 each at the Bank of England, to the account of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners; and the depositor must state at the time the colony in which the land is to be selected, and give notice to the Commissioners of the deposit. Upon production of the Bank's receipt for the money, the commissioners will furnish the depositor with a certificate stating the amount which he has paid, and entitling him to obtain credit for that sum in any purchase which he may effect in the colony, subject to all rules and regulations in force in the colony at the time such purchase may be made.

" 10. For every sum deposited, as above, the depositor will be entitled, for six months from the date of payment, to name a number of properly qualified emigrants, equal to five adults, for a free passage: two children, between one and fourteen, are to be reckoned as equal to one adult. The emigrants are required to be chosen from the class of mechanics and handicraftsmen, agricultural labourers or domestic servants, and must be going out with the intention to work for wages. They are to be subject to the approval of the commissioners, and must, in all respects, fall within their general regulations on the selection of labourers."

In addition to the foregoing, the following regulations are attended to at the government office in Sydney:—

When a survey has been made of a parish, a chart will be exhibited in the surveyor-general's

office, showing its boundaries, divided into sections of one square mile, or 640 acres.

If any person shall be desirous of purchasing lands so notified as disposable, application must be made through the surveyor-general, in a printed form, copies of which may be obtained, at his office, on payment of a fee of two shillings and sixpence for each.

If the spot applied for should contain less than 640 acres, the reason for the applicant's wishing to obtain it must be explained as to the particular circumstances.

The lands for the purchase of which application shall be made, will be advertised for one month, and will then be sold by auction to the highest bidder, in lots of one section or 640 acres, as nearly as practicable, provided that the price offered shall at least amount to the lowest upset price required by the recent land regulations.

Before the bidding is accepted, a deposit of ten per cent must be laid down, and an engagement signed to pay the balance in a month, and if then not paid, the deposit is forfeited, and a new sale takes place.

Such are the regulations for the purchase of land in the Australian colonies (New South Wales, Southern Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand): viz.,—by auction, and at the lowest upset price, £1. per acre. Country lands, not bought at the public sales, may afterwards be bought at the upset prices as a first price.

The proceeds of the sales, as well as the rents of crown lands in Australia, are dedicated to provide the necessary funds for free passages, to assist the supply of labour in the colony. The fund is not intended for the purposes of relief to persons in this country; but to supply the colonists with the

particular description of labour of which they stand most in need ; since by two circumstances, viz., the abolition of the assignment of convicts to New South Wales, now followed by the abandonment of the convict system altogether, and the introduction of the Wakefield system of land sales, which ruined the emigrant fund, by raising the upset price of land to £1. per acre. New South Wales and South Australia are at present the only colonies that, under the operation of this system, supply the means of emigration at all.

It is necessary, however, that where such means are supplied, the emigrants selected for a free passage to these colonies are restricted to certain regulations:—In terms—that the emigrants must be chiefly agricultural labourers, shepherds, and domestic and farm servants. A few country mechanics, such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, &c., may also be accepted.

Such are the government limitations as to the trade or calling of free emigrants ; but we are of opinion that town-bred mechanics would obtain a preference in the colony ; and that it is not only impolitic but unjust, not to extend the benefit of free emigration to the municipal artizans, who are acknowledged to be as well, if not better, qualified for exercising their respective professions than any mechanic bred up in some obscure hamlet. As the rule stands, they must be all adults, capable of labour and working for wages, as well as going out with the intention of settling in the colony. Intending traders, or purchasers of land, or their families, are not allowed to be selected for a free passage which is only designed for such as have not the means of paying. Reduced tradesmen and paupers are likewise declared ineligible—with what justice we cannot perceive. Young married cou-

ples without children are the most acceptable candidates ; for the free emigrants must consist chiefly of married couples not above forty years of age. If still healthy and capable of labour, a year over that will be allowed for every child above fourteen years of age. Free passage will be given to no family including more than two children under seven, or more than three under ten years of age ; but in particular cases, larger families are granted a passage, by paying £7. each for the supernumerary children. Under all circumstances, however, families with many children are liable to be delayed in obtaining passages. Parents are not in any case permitted to be separated from children under eighteen years of age. Single women under that age are not admissible without their parents, unless emigrating under the care of some near married relative, or under engagement as domestic servants to ladies going out as cabin passengers in the same ship. Above thirty-five years of age they are not accepted on any account whatever. Single men must also be between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, and the number taken must correspond to that of single women in the same ship. All emigrants who have not had small-pox, must have been vaccinated. Relatives of free emigrants are sometimes allowed the option of going in the same vessel, on paying the expense of their passage. Before embarkation, £2. must be paid by every person above fourteen years of age, and £1. for every child above one and under fourteen, to meet the expense of bedding and mess utensils. Provisions, medical attendance, and cooking utensils are provided by the commissioners ; also new mattresses, bolsters, blankets, and counterpanes ; canvas bags, to contain linen, &c. ; knives, forks, spoons, metal plates and drinking cups. These articles the

emigrants are permitted to keep after arrival in the colony, provided their behaviour has been satisfactory on the voyage out. The smallest quantity of clothing, however, that free emigrants are allowed to embark with is,—for males, six shirts, two pairs shoes, six pairs stockings, and two complete suits of exterior clothing; for females, six shifts, two gowns, two flannel petticoats, six pairs stockings, two pairs shoes, their own sheets and towels, and at least two pounds of soap. Without this supply of clothing, the inspector appointed by the commissioners, will not allow the emigrant to pass; but as a general rule the more abundant the stock of clothing, the better for health and comfort, on the passage. The usual length of the voyage is about four months; and no matter what the season of the year may be, the emigrants have to pass through very hot and very cold weather, and should therefore be prepared for both. The free emigrants on arriving in the colony, are at perfect liberty to dispose of themselves as they think proper: no repayment is expected for the passage out. Only one thing is required of them, the strict observance of the following regulations during the voyage. The regulations present a lively picture of life on shipboard, during an emigrant voyage.

“ Perfect order and cleanliness being indispensable to health and comfort, especially on board ship, and in long voyages, the following rules and regulations will be adopted and enforced among the stowage passengers on the voyage to Australia:—

“ 1. Every person to be out of bed at seven o'clock in the morning.

“ 2. All the beds to be rolled up neatly every morning by those who use them: and in fine weather carried on deck by the same parties, at the time the surgeon shall direct.

"3. Breakfast at eight o'clock.

"4. Decks, above and below, to be cleaned at nine o'clock.

"5. Dinner at one o'clock.

"6. Tea, coffee, or cocoa, at six o'clock.

"7. The whole of the steerage passengers, must, as soon after they are all embarked as practicable, be classed by the surgeon superintendent in messes equal to eight adults in each (reckoning children according to their age) and a captain of each mess must be then appointed by the surgeon, whose business it shall be to receive the food from the cook, for all who compose his, or her mess, and to share the same in fair and just proportions, with his or her comrades in each mess. No person shall go to the cook at meal times, but the captain of each mess.

"8. Two respectable men (fathers or husbands) shall be selected by the surgeon, for the satisfaction of all the passengers, to see in turns, the whole of the provisions weighed and delivered each day, by the officer appointed for that purpose, so that every person may know that justice is done in this respect.

"9. Two males and two females, of discretion and experience, shall be selected by the surgeon, to act as overseers, as respects the moral conduct and personal cleanliness, and habits of order and propriety among all the steerage passengers. It shall be their business to hear and inquire into any cases of insubordination, neglect of cleanliness, immorality, or other offences against propriety and the comfort of all on board, and to report to the surgeon in cases which may require it; and his decision shall be binding in every case.

"10. No male passenger shall at any time, nor under any pretence whatever, be permitted to go into the female sleeping apartment, nor the females into that of the male, without the permission of the surgeon; the preservation of propriety on board demands entire conformity to this regulation.

"11. The surgeon to appoint four strong capable men, and the same number of women, who shall be willing to undertake the duty of cleaning out, every morning, the whole of their respective apartments thoroughly; to see the bedding is all got on deck in fine weather to be aired, and to sweep the lower deck after each meal; and the bottom boards of the berths to be removed, dry scrubbed, and taken on deck two or three times a week, or as often as the surgeon may direct. To each of these eight persons,

the sum of £3. shall be paid on arrival, provided the surgeon shall certify that each person, so employed, has actively, and with good will and obedience to his wishes, satisfactorily performed this duty during the whole voyage.

"12. Prior to the cleaners commencing their work each morning, every person, whatever age, shall (unless the state of the weather render it improper,) go on the upper deck, and remain there until the apartments have been thoroughly cleaned out, or so long as the surgeon shall direct.

"13. Schools for the children, and for such adults may be disposed to join, are to be formed on board, under the surgeon's approval; and when the weather will allow of it, the teachers are to carry on their duties from ten to twelve forenoon, and from two to four afternoon. A suitable library, of elementary, religious, moral, and entertaining books, is supplied for each emigrant ship; they are returned at the close of each day to the teachers, and taken proper care of. Bibles and Prayer-Books are also put on board for general use.

"14. The above being a benevolent and Christian work, and calculated to induce quiet and order on board, the services of those who are competent are requested as teachers; they are to be appointed by the surgeon, and conduct the business committed to them as he shall sanction.

"15. The surgeon shall cause prayers to be read daily in each apartment, unless prevented by the state of the weather; and on every Sunday morning, the people will be expected to assemble on the upper deck at ten o'clock, in clean and respectable attire, becoming that sacred day. After the surgeon has seen that every person is cleanly and becomingly dressed, Divine Service shall be performed to all on board.

"16. Washing shall be allowed at fixed hours, on the upper deck, on two days (to be appointed by the surgeon,) in each week, and on no other days; and it is strictly forbidden to wash in the sleeping apartments below, or to spill any water on that deck; neither are any clothes to be dried below.

"17. The use of spirits is strictly prohibited.

"18. No smoking to be allowed in the sleeping apartments, and only on the upper deck at such times as the surgeon shall sanction.

"19. A safety lamp to be kept burning near the hatch-

way, in each apartment, during the night, which shall not be removed ; no other light to be permitted below, after the hour fixed by the surgeon for putting out the lights.

" 20. It is strongly recommended that a portion of the steerage passengers, as may be fixed by the surgeon, should, during the warm part of the voyage, take it in turn to be on deck during the night, in order to keep the sleeping apartments in a cool and healthy state ; no person, however, will be privileged to do this without the permission of the surgeon superintendent.

" 21. Any person acting contrary to these regulations, shall have his or her wine stopped for the rest of the voyage.

" 22. These rules and regulations, having for their object, solely, the comfort, health, and happiness of every person on board, every individual is earnestly exhorted to conform to them, and to set an example of ready and cordial co-operation with the surgeon superintendent in preventing their infraction by any ill-tempered or perverse person. A record will be daily kept by the surgeon, of the conduct of every person on board, and according to their good or improper behaviour, will be the report made of them to the colony. Their future success there will be seriously affected by their conduct on the voyage. Every one should remember that the general, and not exclusively individual, comfort and well-being is the great object which must be constantly prosecuted, and then every person will see it to be his and her duty and interest to conform to the rules laid down."

Such are the salutary rules and regulations for the conduct of free emigrants on their voyage to Australia ; and those arriving in a happy and orderly ship may always expect the best offers of employment, whilst quarrelsome and refractory persons will be avoided.

Having thus given the regulations for the purchase of land, as well as those for the conduct of emigrants on the voyage, we will here insert the Surveyor-general's letter to Dr. Lang, containing a valuable enumeration of the various districts where there is much unoccupied land, which will

be of importance to such as may be inclined to purchase immediately on their arrival.

"I shall subjoin the names of such places as seem most eligible, and where the waste lands are of very good quality, and in general extensive.

"To the Southward—the limits of our present colony terminate on the borders of one of the finest regions in the world for the establishment of an agricultural population,—I mean the banks of the Yass, the Borrowa, and Murrumbidgee; consisting of rich open plains, watered by copious never-failing streams. To that country level roads may be made the whole of the way from Sydney, and in time, the sea-coast, near to it, may also be rendered accessible by the same means. To enumerate particular parts of that extensive country is needless at present.

"The upper parts of the Shoalhaven river are also, in general, very good from Kurraduebidgee southward:—there are many parts of the banks and valleys opening on this river which might maintain a very numerous agricultural population.

"The shores of Bateman Bay, and the lower part of the river called Clywd, are still very little taken up, and contain much very superior land for cultivation.

"To the westward of Burra-burrallagern, is a tract of beautiful land; the situation is isolated, but to a small community it would prove, perhaps, eligible enough; it is watered by some fine mountain streams, and is in the immediate vicinity of the sheep stations of Messrs. M'Arthur, M'Alister, &c.

"Goulbourn Plains are still but thinly peopled, although consisting in general of good wheat land, and in every respect a good situation for forming a population. Northward of these is Tarlo, where some good land is still vacant.

"Bungonia, where a township has been laid out. In this vicinity there is much land very eligible for small farms. A few miles nearer Sydney, at Bumballa, near the Shoalhaven river there is much good land still unlocated; and at Cambewurra, an extensive portion of table land south of Illawarra, which consists of about sixteen square miles of the richest land, wholly unlocated, although overlooking the sea, and very near Jervis bay, which is likely to become, in a few years, the port of Argyle, &c.

"The Kangaroo river, a branch of the Shoalhaven river

flows in a secluded valley, where the land is of an excellent description ; this river is immediately behind Cambewurra ; the Shoalhaven may be rendered navigable to within a few miles of it.

" Illawarra—there is a tract of land still vacant, very eligible for a small agricultural community.

" East Bargo—some good land, vacant, were it accessible by the road proposed.

" West Bargo consists of much land fit for cultivation, still vacant.

" Burragorang (the bed of the Nattai and Wollondilly rivers,) where the land is excellent, and capable of containing a very numerous population.

" Lake George—various parts of the shores of this lake.

" Breadalbane Plains—Lake Bathurst.

" Sutton Forest—about Nundialla, Black Bob's Creek.

" Paddy's river—near the new line of road.

" *Westward*.—The heads of the river Lachlan. Bathurst (numerous fine valleys in this county). Capertree. Mudgee. Talbragar. Vale of Clywd. Solitary Creek. New road to Bathurst (beyond Gray's station). Ditto, near Stoney range.

" *Northward*.—Brisbane water. Wyong Creek (the upper part terminating in rich cedar ravines). Southern shore of Toggerah Beech Lagoon. Lake M'Quarrie. Watagan or Sugar-loaf Creek (a branch of the Wolombi). Valley at the head of the Ellalong. Head of Wallis' Creek. Williams River (upper part). Kingdom Ponds (ditto). Head of Page's River (on the road to Liverpool Plains). Banks of the higher tributaries to the Goulburn river. Jerry's Plains. Liverpool Plains—the numerous valleys at the head of these, situated between them and Sydney, contain land of excellent quality and well watered. Port M'Quarrie.

" I fear the situations will not be at all intelligible to you without the map ; but the list may serve to point out the variety and extent of eligible places to which bodies of agricultural emigrants might be led."

These are some of the districts where land may at all times be obtained ; but it may suit some emigrants better to lay out their capital on sheep and cattle, and have them grazed under a trustworthy person, paying for such management the

usual allowance of thirds on increase and wool, or to buy an already improved farm, though at a much higher price, even four times that of the government rate per acre. This last plan is strongly recommended by Dr. Lang, and it is but seldom the agricultural emigrant will find reason to differ from his opinion.

There are many persons in the mother country, for whom it would be the height of folly to emigrate to New South Wales, or indeed to any of the colonies. In an old country—a country in a high state of civilization and advancement—there are numerous arts and branches of business for which there cannot possibly be any demand in a young colony; and it is principally owing to the want of proper attention to this important point, that the entire failure of many emigrants, and their loud complaints against the colonies generally, have originated. Previous to leaving his native land, the intending emigrant should by all means ascertain whether his habits and pursuits are adapted to that new state of society which he will find prevailing in the distant land of his adoption. Two muslin weavers, who had been tolerably comfortable in their native country, wishing to improve their circumstances, arrived with large families in New South Wales, and found to their mortification that there was no demand for their labour. They exclaimed loudly against the colony, and threatened to write home against the government agents and committees, who had induced them to emigrate, simply because they discovered, when too late, that muslin weavers were not wanted. These men, however, were brought to their senses by stern necessity; discarding the shuttle, therefore, they took to the spade, and with the assistance of their children, soon found themselves in more com-

fortable circumstances than ever they could have expected to be by continuing at the loom.

For labourers of all classes, for shepherds, and for mechanics of those handicrafts that are required in the building of houses and ships, or in the maintenance of agriculture and commerce, the Australian colonies present a boundless field for employment, at remunerating wages. With respect to the description of labourers and workmen wanted, we copy the following enumeration from the Government Colonisation Circular :—

Boatbuilders—7s. 6d. per day. See *Shipwrights*.

Brickmakers—35s. per thousand for making. Good workmen will always find employment in South Australia.

Blacksmiths—£41. to £55. per annum. Good workmen in demand.

Brewers--Maltsters—3s. to 4s. a day (board and lodging). Brewers are increasing.

Basketmakers—A few good workmen would find this a profitable trade. Common labourers employed.

Chairmakers—6s. to 8s. per day.

Carpenters—5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per day. Always in demand, especially good workmen.

Caulkers—8s. to 9s. a day. Work usually done by shipwrights.

Copers—5s. to 6s. per day.

Cabinetmakers and Upholsterers—6s. to 8s. per day.

Cooks—3s. to 8s. per week, with rations. Men usually employed. Careful and steady men wanted.

Coppersmiths—30s. to 40s. per week. Good workmen would find employment.

Dairymen—£10. to £15. per annum, lodgings and rations. In extreme demand.

Engineers—36s. per week, and rations. The class of men here meant are properly engine-men and blacksmiths.

Farriers—6s. to 7s. per day. Much in demand.

Fencers—30s. to 40s. per week ; or post and rail fences 2s. and 3s. 6d. per rod.

Field-labourers—£20. to £40. per annum, and rations. All kinds of field-labourers in demand.

Gardeners—£25. to £40. per annum, and rations. Always in demand.

- Gardeners' Labourers*—£15. to £25. per annum, and rations. Much required.
- Glaziers and Plumbers*—4s. 6d. to — per day. A few of the latter wanted.
- Harnessmakers and Saddlers*—6s. to 6s. 6d. per day. Chiefly supplied by importation.
- Joiners*—6s. to 8s. 6d. per day. Good workmen in demand.
- Ironfounders*—6s. to — per day. Good workmen would find employment.
- Logsmiths*—6s. to 7s. per day. Good workmen would find employment.
- Millwrights*—6s. to 8s. per day. Wanted to fit up wooden gear.
- Milkmen*—£12. to £20. per annum. All kinds of husbandry in demand.
- Nailors*—40s. per week, and upwards.
- Plasterers*—£2s. per week. In demand. An excellent trade.
- Ploughmen*—£20. to £40. per annum, lodging and rations. All agricultural labourers, shepherds, sheep-shearers, &c., may be so rated, and are in great demand.
- Potters*—as labourers, one or two might find employment.
- Printers: Compositors and Pressmen*—5s. to 8s. per day. Steady men wanted.
- Quarrymen*—4s to 6s. per day. Always in demand.
- Sawyers*—60s. to 87s. 6d. per thousand. In great demand.
- Shipwrights*—5s. to 7s. 6d. per day. Good workmen in demand.
- Shoemakers*—5s. to 7s. per day. In great demand. A good trade.
- Sailors*.—50s. to 60s. per month. Always in demand.
- Stonemasons and Setters*.—5s. 6d. to 7s. per day. In great demand.
- Tailors*.—5s. to 7s. per day. In demand. Piece-work one-third higher than in England.
- Turners*.—A few might work profitably on their own account.
- Vinedressers*.—£10 to £40 per annum. and upwards, according to qualification. Skilful men in demand.
- Wheelwrights*.—5s. to 7s. per day; or £39 to £44 per annum, and rations. Good workmen always find employment.
- Parchement-makers*.—Sheep-skins 2d. to 3d. each. Parch-

ment likely to be manufactured for exportation. No demand at present.

When rations are mentioned, the usual quantity is 10 pounds of flour, 2 lbs. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, and 7 pounds of meat, per week.

With respect to the rate of wages in Australia, and the advantages there held out to honest and industrious families, it must be borne in mind, that the expense of bringing up a family in that colony, is much less than in England.* We will here extract from the prices current; Melbourne Gazette:—

“Fresh beef, 4*d.* per lb.; joint, 3½*d.*; mutton, 3½*d.*; coffee, 1*s.* 1*d.*; candles, 10*d.*; dips, 8*d.*; salt butter, 2*s.*; fresh butter, 2*s.* 3*d.*; rice, 3*d.*; English soap, 6*d.*; sugar, 4*d.*; tobacco, 2*s.*; brandy, per gallon, 6*s.*; rum, 6*s.*; tea, per chest, £5. 10*s.*; flour, per 100 lbs., £1. 4*s.*; wethers, each, 12 to 15*s.*; potatoes, per cwt. 8*s.*; wheat, per bushel, 5*s.*; maize, ditto, 5*s.* 6*d.*”

When children are properly trained, instead of being a burden to their parents, in New South Wales, they are a source of certain wealth. Industrious persons, of sober, orderly habits, find no difficulty in saving a considerable portion of their earnings; and after a few years' economy they may be able, (if mechanics,) to establish themselves in desirable localities for carrying on their trade: if agriculturists, their savings will enable them to rent farms, or to purchase land. Any attempt by the latter class, to settle as farmers, on their own account, immediately upon arrival in the colony, is by no means desirable. They require first to acquire local experience. They will find that there is not only much to learn; but what is far more difficult, much to unlearn.

But it is not only the working-classes to whom

* The prices of provisions and the rate of wages depends entirely on the demand and supply. The great influx of immigrants has caused considerable advance in the former, but the latter have increased in proportion.

the benefits to be derived from emigration are confined. There are many families of respectability in Great Britain possessing property to the amount of from £2,000 to £5,000; but having no means of providing for the settlement of their children, and having nothing else to depend on for the future than the small income derivable from property of that amount, to such families, New South Wales presents a most eligible prospect for effecting a comfortable settlement. With a comparatively small portion of their capital they could purchase a farm of moderate extent, partially or wholly cleared, in one of the settled districts of the colony, where in all likelihood they would find respectable and agreeable society in their immediate neighbourhood, and be surrounded with the comforts of civilization. A farm of the kind would not only furnish a respectable family with all the necessities, and many of the comforts of life, but would provide profitable employment for their children. If they choose to embark largely in sheep-farming, or in grazing speculations, they could either purchase or rent a tract of land from the government, in the distant interior, where their sheep and cattle could range in safety under the charge of a kind overseer; but if they chose rather to lend out their money at interest, they could obtain 10 per cent. with the utmost facility, on security as good as any in England.

Captain Sturt, in the account he gives of his *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia*, publishes a number of estimates, in which he shows, that for an outlay of £1,000 on sheep, at the end of five years the total value will be £5,851. 15s., after paying all expenses.

“In short,” says Dr. Lang, “New South Wales affords the fairest prospect for prudent and indus-

trious families of moderate capital, whom the present circumstances of the mother country may induce to emigrate. And let it be remembered by all who may have it in their power to promote and encourage emigration, that every such family that settles in New South Wales contributes eventually to the prosperity of Great Britain, through the more extensive market which it opens for British manufactures, and the direct support it affords to British commerce, in all likelihood to a much greater extent than if it never had left the British shore.

“Suppose the case of a respectable family, living in England on £200 or £250 a-year, the interest of their whole capital of £5,000 : they will doubtless consider themselves fortunate in having been able to invest that capital at 4 per cent., interest, but they would much rather have invested it in a good business of any kind ; for the head of the family is perhaps a man of some energy of mind, who is still in the prime of life, and has a numerous offspring to provide for. Deterred, however, from engaging in business, from the fear of losing their whole property in the present competition for the profitable investment of capital, they retire to some part of the country, where they can rear and educate their children as economically as possible. In such a situation it is evident that the *custom*, even, of every respectable family, is no great matter to the manufacturer ; for they necessarily do with as little as possible : for the same reason, the ship-owner is very little in their debt, for all he gets by *carrying* home, from beyond seas, the tea and sugar, or other commodities they make use of. In short, the capital of the family is, comparatively, dead to the nation, and so are the energies of the capitalist ; for, instead of occupying the place in

society which his abilities and education, combined with his pecuniary means, would *in other and more favourable circumstances*, have entitled him to hold, his time is drivelled away, either in shooting, or in poring over the newspaper, at the nearest reading-room, or in speculating on the propriety of making one son a lawyer, another a medical man, and a third a clergyman. When the boys are educated—which, in the present circumstances of the mother-country, is not easily accomplished out of an income of £200 a-year—the man who, if he felt his own weight or knew his own place in the world, would scorn the employment—spends his pocket-money in coach-hire, and his time in the ante-chambers of the great, actually *begging* for situations for his sons! Let the reader *look at this picture*, and then *say if it is not like* the actual condition of many respectable families in England!

“Let him look at the same family emigrating to New South Wales. Fifteen hundred pounds will be sufficient to land the whole family in the colony, and purchase a partially improved farm, or estate, with a good house on it, in a settled part of the country, and within a moderate distance from Sydney; on which, without any further outlay of capital, they may obtain all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life, and which will afford, moreover, suitable and sufficient employment for the most active mind! Two thousand pounds of their capital, invested at 10 per cent. interest, will afford them a return equal to their whole income in England; while the remainder, if invested judiciously, in cattle or in sheep farming, will in all likelihood yield them from twenty to fifty per cent interest. The circumstances of the emigrants will, therefore, be materially changed for the better, and they will accordingly live in a style somewhat

conformable to their larger income. - But others will be benefited by this change; for they will no longer be content with the limited supply of Birmingham and Leeds manufactures, that they found sufficient in England, and they will consequently be much better customers, than they were before, to the manufacturers; whose workmen will, of course, be better employed than they were previously to their emigration. They could scarce afford to keep a riding-horse in England, they can now keep a carriage, and of course give employment to the various classes of persons in the manufacture of saddlery and coach furniture in the mother country. They now buy tea by the chest, and sugar by the ton, for their large farm establishment; and the classes of merchants, ship-owners, and mariners, are on that account, as well as in consequence of their increased consumption of British goods, benefited to a much greater amount than they would have been by their remaining at home.

“As a member of society, the capitalist of £200 per annum, living in retirement in England, is of comparatively little weight in the scale. In New South Wales he becomes an important person.

“As a father, the means of education for his children are within his reach in the colony, and the walks of mercantile and professional exertion are open to his sons; but he is relieved from all anxiety as to their obtaining a comfortable subsistence in the world; and can any person deny that the man of moderate capital who thus lives in the colony, does not much more usefully to the British nation, as well as to himself, to his family, and to society, than the man who merely vegetates on £200 a-year in England.”

Mr. Cunningham, in his work, “Two Years in

New South Wales," advises emigrants with small capital to unite in forming a settlement. He says, "Three individuals arriving in the colony with £400 each, mustering thus a capital among them of £1200, would do a fourth more at least with this sum than a single individual possessing such a capital of £1200 *could*, besides placing themselves in comfort in one third of the time, and saving eventually a large sum by the proceeding. Having myself experienced the benefit of this plan, I can speak with great confidence of its merits. In fact, in this way emigration may be successfully practised by large bodies of individuals possessing small capitals, who could not at all attempt it single handed. Six individuals, for instance, with £100 each in their pockets on arrival, willing and able to work, might soon form a comfortable asylum for themselves; and even if they landed with £50 a-piece, might start decently. The *requisites* here are integrity, the preservation of a good understanding among themselves, and a sufficiency of land at no great distance, one from the other, fit for farming purposes. This hint is worthy of the attention of persons inclining to emigrate; for besides the advantages which may arise from an union of efforts, or the interchange of assistance with each other, there would be a pleasure in the enjoyment of the society of old acquaintance in the district selected for settlement."

Military officers purchasing land according to the regulations established in the respective colonies, will, in proportion to their rank and service, be entitled to a remission of purchase-money according to the following graduated scale, on producing testimonials of unexceptionable character from the general commanding-in-chief, viz. :—

Field Officers of 25 years' service and upwards, in the whole	£300
" " 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	250
" " 15 years' service or less, in the whole	200
Captains of 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	200
" " 15 years' service or less, in the whole	150
Subalterns of 20 years' service and upwards, in the whole	150
" " 7 years' service or less, in the whole	100

Non-commissioned officers and soldiers desirous of settling in the colony are required to purchase land at the public sales, receiving a remission of the purchase-money in the following proportions :—

Sergeants	£50
Rank and File	25

The advantages of emigration to New South Wales, if not numerous, are at least considerable.

1. The interest of money lent on mortgage varies from 10 to 12½ per cent., but the latter may, without much difficulty, be procured.

2. The climate of New South Wales is far superior to the Canadas, and it is better adapted for wool, and many other productions.

3. The settler has nothing to do with taxes, tithes, poor-rates, or parish business of any kind—which at home occasion considerable uneasiness.

4. Provisions of every description are plentiful and extremely cheap.

Since the colony was established in 1788, a revenue has been derived from the importation of tobacco and manufactures, as also from licenses; as the population and commerce of the colony in-

creased, so did the revenue. The increase which has taken place in the customs duties at Sydney is almost unprecedented; they now amount to about £200,000, while in 1822, they did not reach £10,000. The following is an abstract of the produce of the revenue of the colony of New South Wales for one year:—

Duties on spirits imported,	£130,038	11	0
Duties on spirits distilled in the colony,	1,286	17	0
Duties on tobacco imported,	22,739	16	3
<i>Ad valorem</i> duty of 5 per cent. on foreign goods,	10,507	9	2
Wharfage,	2,176	15	2
Light-house duties,	558	10	7
Fees on the entrance and clearance of vessels,	630	17	9
Fees on the registration of vessels,	879	9	0
Permits to remove spirits,	0	0	6
Water supplied to shipping from the dock-yard,	203	9	0
Post-office collections,	5,595	19	5
Auction duties,	4,820	3	11
Licenses to auctioneers,	66	0	0
Ditto to distillers,	75	0	0
Ditto to retail spirituous and malt liquors,	10,834	0	0
Rents of tolls, ferries, and market dues,	4,023	4	3
Fees of public offices,	6,800	5	5
Ditto of courts of magistrates,	1,208	10	10
Fines collected by the sheriff,	1,095	2	0
Ditto collected by the courts of magistrates,	2,436	1	5½
Proceeds of sale of live-stock,	32	9	5
Ditto of unclaimed property detained by the police,	162	0	7
Ditto of property found in the possession of convicted felons,	4,963	15	10½
Ditto of surplus and unserviceable stores,	187	7	0½
Ditto of surplus provisions and stores landed from emigrant ships,	981	9	2½

Collections by the agents for the estates of the late Church and School Corporation,	11,930	17	6½
Rents of gardens, mills, and government premises,	120	9	2
Ditto of news in churches,	20	14	8
Repayment of loans and sums refunded,	26	10	11
Surcharges recovered,	24	13	4
Interest on debts to the crown,	24	3	4
Interest on public monies in colonial banks,	2,502	1	11
Miscellaneous and incidental receipts,	63	13	9
	<hr/>		
	£226,900	3	10½
	<hr/>		
Proceeds of land sold,	120,427	0	5
Quit-rents,	1,560	6	7
Redemption of quit-rents,	784	19	2
Rent of lands temporarily leased,	874	13	0
Fees on the delivery of title-deeds,	589	2	8
Licenses to depasture live stock on crown lands,	3,680	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£127,866	1	10
	<hr/>		
Total,	£354,766	5	8
While the expenditure of New South Wales for the same year was,	£234,214	0	0
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Showing a surplus of income over expenditure of	£120,552	5	8
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The commerce of New South Wales has become an object of great consideration to the mother country. The maritime trade of the colony is now about two millions and a half sterling; whereas, a few years ago, it did not amount to half a million. The largest amount of the trade is carried on with Great Britain. The imports are spirits, wines, and beer, tea, groceries, and tobacco, salt provisions, cottons, lincens, silks, and woollens, which amounted, in 1848, to £2,578,442, against £1,237,406 in 1837. The exports are wool, tim-

ber, flax, oil of all kinds, maize, hides, and ships' stores, amounting to £2,854,315, against £784,624 in 1837. The total tonnage inwards and outwards in 1848 was 694,904.

After wool, whale oil is the chief staple of the colony; this article of commerce is of recent creation, but its progress has been rapid. Upwards of forty vessels are employed in this trade, amounting to 9655 tons, and carrying 1179 men. The black whale is found in abundance along the coast of New South Wales, but those engaged in the fishing prefer cruising off the coast of New Zealand, and among the beautiful islands in the Pacific. The sperm fishing is the most valuable however. The annual produce of the whale fishing amounts to about £150,000.

The *phormium tenax*, or New Zealand flax, is another article of export, yearly increasing in amount; it is similar in appearance to the English flax. The outer part of the leaf is scraped off, the inner fibres or filaments, resembling dressed flax, are then sent off to Sydney, where it is worth from £15 to £20 per ton. Timber, particularly cedar plank, has been for some time exported.

After giving the revenue, &c. of New South Wales for the fourteen years ending 1837, a late publication has the following:—The above has been submitted to two actuaries of eminence in London, in order to ascertain what the amount of each of these three heads of production would be in 1851, being the end of another fourteen years. The results are as follow, viz. :—

Revenue.	Land Revenue.	Exports of Wool.
In 1824, £49,191 5 11	£279 17 9	275,560 lbs.
In 1837, 226,900 3 10	127,866 1 10	4,606,915 lbs.
In 1851, 1,046,606	58,391,835	77,020,125 lbs.

“These calculations are given here to show the mighty resources of this magnificent and invaluable colony, and to demonstrate to all really industrious and right-minded persons the vast advantages which New South Wales offers them. It is not meant to depreciate other colonies, but it may safely be affirmed, that the parallel of the rapid advancement of New South Wales, and the boundless field for success which it offers to rightly directed industry and enterprise, is not to be found in the annals of mankind.”

The whole of the preceding statements demonstrate the rapid progress which New South Wales has made in population, wealth, and civilization; and we are of opinion that the destinies of the colony are inconceivably high.

We will conclude our account of New South Wales by the insertion of the following sketch from the *New South Wales Calendar*.

“In this important colonial possession, the rising up of towns and villages, and the erection of well proportioned public and private edifices, stand in proud attestation of a country’s advancement. At the first settlement of the colony, the eye in every direction rested upon no other object than an interminable forest. Now the stranger beholds Sydney, the metropolis of Australia, with no small surprise; the regularity of the streets, and the elegance of the buildings, being beyond his most sanguine expectations.

“A proof of the country’s progression consists in the appointment of the mails, and the quick and secure transmission of letters by post. Settlers in distant parts of the interior are now supplied with their letters and newspapers at a fixed rate, and at stated periods, and the inhabitants of Sydney with the former twice every day, with the excep-

tion of Sunday. Stage-coaches also run regularly between the metropolis and some of the towns in the interior, while, for the accommodation of the good citizens of the capital, hackney-coaches have been started. Between the ports of Sydney and Newcastle several vessels are regularly trading, while others speed their way to Van Dieman's Land and New Zealand on varied objects of commerce. Nor are these the only means of intercourse, by water; steam vessels, those rapid vehicles of communication, which Great Britain and America shoot forth to different countries of the northern hemisphere, now ply upon our southern waves. Two of these make their weekly trip, on different days, from Sydney to Newcastle, a town on the mouth of the Hunter, and on to the Green Hills, near Maitland, thirty-eight miles up the river. By this means the settlers in these rich and extensive districts have the accommodation of making choice of the opportunities, without regard to wind and tide, of proceeding to and from Sydney within a week, of shipping the produce of their farms for the market, and bringing back goods in return.

“Another mark of the progress of cultivation and march of intellect, will be found to consist in the publication of newspapers, and other periodical works; of the former, there are at present six in the colony, besides the *Government Gazette*; in addition to these, we have the *Australian Almanack*, an annual which contains much useful information for the colonist.”*

A great improvement is daily taking place in the outward condition of the several ranks of so-

* A railway from Sydney to Goulburn, a distance of 120 miles, is now in course of construction.

ciety. While the climate is decidedly good, and where but little disease predominates, which, with care and attention, may be generally avoided or repelled, the sick from accident or from causes unconnected with climate, the helpless and the infirm, have the benefit of the Hospital, the Dispensary, and Benevolent Asylum. For the moral welfare of the community there are various societies. For the general reader there are a subscription library and two circulating libraries; for the scientific, lectures in natural philosophy, chemistry, &c., and a museum, which must ere long rise into importance, as the public receptacle for the innumerable wonders of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms of this great southern land. Astronomy possesses her votary at the observatory in Paramatta, while the lovers of Flora may range at pleasure through the walks of the Botanical Garden, and drives in the government domain in Sydney; and the admirers of agriculture and horticulture attend the annual meetings of the society, and witness the awarding of the medals to the successful candidates for the several premiums for colonial produce and stock. The amateur of the course can boast his turf, racing, and jockey clubs. The lover of drollery and fun, his "Levy at Home;" the man of merchandise, his "Australian Society," his "Chamber of Commerce," and "Marine Insurance Company." And while the man of wealth rejoices in his shares in the larger, the prudent and thrifty avail themselves of a safe depository for their savings in the lesser bank. Inventions of different kinds from the mother country are constantly multiplying.

"As a consequence of this improvement in the physical circumstances of the people, population has, within these few years, been on the increase.

A great change for the better also has been gradually taking place in the quality of every description of stock. No country can be more favourable for breeding good horses than this. The mildness of the climate, the abundance of natural grasses, and the extensive runs through endless woods, and over the finest downs, tend in no slight degree to their improvement. We have at the present time most excellent breeds, of different kinds, imported from England and India, both for saddle and draught, and their number exceeds the demand for them. Here, too, they are subject to very few diseases, and live to a great age.

“From the same advantages of climate and pasture, horned cattle also thrive well in this colony. Of the Devonshire, Suffolk, Durham, and Ayrshire breeds, very many have been imported. The supply of milk, butter, and cheese is generally abundant. The beef is excellent and plentiful, and, consequently, cheap, and must continue so as long as the increase of animal food exceeds the consumption; many, however, of our superabundant cattle will be drained from our herds, now that our salted beef, some of which, having been well tried, has been pronounced of very *superior* quality, is made to supply our whalers, and is becoming a valuable export from our shores.

“As it regards sheep, our colonial wool has of late wonderfully improved, and is now equal, or superior, in many flocks, to the fleece of any other country. Good confidential shepherds, however, are much wanted. Were the sheep farms supplied with such, the quantity of wool would be greatly increased, as the lives of many valuable sheep would be annually saved to the wool-grower.

“Many thousand acres of our territory are now under cultivation in wheat and maize. On this

side of the Blue Mountains the soil and climate are not generally favourable to the growth of the former, but are particularly adapted to that of the latter. To the westward of the mountains, and in the county of Argyle, wheat flourishes well, the crops are abundant, and the grain of the very best quality.

“The cultivation of tobacco is rapidly increasing in the colony, and very excellent snuff is manufactured in Sydney from its produce. The climate appears also to be well adapted to the growth of the hop, and of cotton and flax.

“As regards vegetables, these of every description flourish in our gardens, while fruit-trees of all kinds, such as oranges, peaches, apples, pears, &c. are very productive amongst us. The olive promises well, and every year adds something new to the present productions, in the shape of seeds and fruit-trees imported from Europe, South America, and India.

“Considered in a mineralogical and geological point of view, this country is by no means deficient in interest; but, on the contrary, is daily advancing in importance. The quantity and quality of the coal, worked by the Australian Agricultural Company at Newcastle, will be not only a source of increasing value to the resident in Sydney, where the purchase of fire-wood, which must now be brought from a considerable distance into the capital, is attended with so much expense, but must also be an article of export. Some of the best kinds of iron are to be met with in the colony; and from the recent discovery, by the writer of this sketch, in the neighbourhood of the Liverpool range, of native copper, coating the rounded surfaces of agate and cornelian, it may be presumed that the riches of this mineral will one day be ex-

tracted from the bowels of our mountains, and be made to be of no trifling importance in the manufactures of the country. Here, in this new land, the geologist observes the general accordance of the inclination and alternation of the several strata with that of other countries on the face of the earth, and discovers organic remains in localities similar to these, where they are known to predominate in the old world.

“Of the various descriptions of emigrants, the following are much wanted amongst us, and, if sober and industrious, may calculate upon obtaining full employment and good wages, namely, brick-makers and brick-layers, stone-masons and plasterers, ship and house carpenters, coopers and wheelwrights, painters and glaziers, cabinet-makers and blacksmiths. And as the disproportion between the sexes cannot but be considered one of the most serious evils in the social condition of the colony, the emigration hither of unmarried females of good character in the humble walks of life (and many such have already arrived amongst us) must be attended with very beneficial results to the community at large.

“Disappointments, however, many and grievous, have been experienced by settlers on their arrival, especially by the emigrant pensioners of the army and artillery; as a preventive against any similar misfortunes for the future, a society, which is called ‘The Emigrant’s Friend Society,’ has been formed in Sydney, the especial object of which is, as vessels arrive successively in our harbour, to direct the strangers on our shores how to procure employment, and thereby prevent them from spending, to no available purpose, the little they possess, and from being foiled in the hopes which induced them to quit their native land.

"The permanent welfare of all classes in our community must doubtless depend upon a due proportion of emigrant capitalists and emigrant labourers, respectively, arriving amongst us. The system of making grants of land being now abolished, the former may purchase land of the government at the minimum price, or may rent land at a yearly lease of 3s. 1½d. per 100 acres; and as there are millions of acres in the colony still unoccupied, we invite to our shores individuals of this description, bidding them bear in mind the great advantages they will here enjoy in having on their farms the aid of convict labour—[that advantage is now lost to the colony]—so much cheaper than that of free servants, assuring them that, if they will only take care that the servants assigned to them by the government be well treated, well fed, and well clothed, they will be as safe on their lands, in the midst of the *bond*, as they would be in England surrounded by the *free*.

"Such then, we repeat it, is the present state of Australia—such her standing amongst the colonies of Great Britain; and, blest beneath the sway of a ruler whose study is the people's welfare, she cannot but continue to increase in wealth and importance, until, at no distant period, she shall obtain that great political boon from the mother country—a legislative assembly—and rise proudly pre-eminent, happy, and independent, amidst the nations of the earth."

She has obtained that much desired boon, which was granted during the last session of the British Parliament. The queen, in her speech at the prorogation of Parliament, says, respecting this measure—"The acts for the better government of my Australian colonies will, I trust, improve the condition of these rising colonies. It will always be

gratifying to me to be able to extend the advantages of representative constitutions, which forward the glory and happiness of my people, to colonies inhabited by men who are capable of exercising, with benefit to themselves, the privileges of freedom."

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND is situated on the south-east coast of New Holland, from which it is separated by Bass's Straits, between the parallels of 41 deg. 20 min. and 43 deg. 40 min. south, and the meridian of 140 deg. 40 min. and 148 deg. 20 min. east. It is of an irregular heart-shape; and its greatest extent, from north to south, is estimated at 210 miles, and from east to west 150 miles. It contains 27,600 square miles, or 15,000,000 acres, having a surface about equal to the size of Ireland.

This island was first discovered in 1633, by Tasman, the Dutch navigator; and it was in honour of the Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, Anthony Van Dieman, that the island received its name; its occasional name of Tasmania is a tribute to its first discoverer, Tasman, who first visited the coast in an eastward voyage from Mauritius; but it was not for more than 130 years that the knowledge of its existence was followed by any event of the slightest importance. Captain Cook

and his companion, Captain Turncant, in the course of their voyage of circumnavigation, visited the shores of Van Dieman's Land, and it was subsequently visited by Captain Cook in 1777, without discovering its insularity. It was likewise visited by D'Entrecasteaux, who traced the channel which now bears his name. It was still believed, however, to be a part of the continent of New Holland; nor was it until Bass, in 1798, in an open boat, passed through the straits which are named after him, that its insular character was established. The honour of the discovery belongs to the Dutch; but the survey of it has been effected principally by the English.

• It was formally taken possession of by the English in 1804, when a small detachment, under the command of Lieutenant Bowen, arrived from Sydney, for the purpose of forming a penal settlement for convicts transported from that colony. Risdon, or, as it is sometimes called, Restdown, on the banks of the Derwent, a few miles up the river, was the spot selected for the settlement; but at that time little was effected beyond this.

Early in 1804, Lieutenant-Governor Collins, who had recently left England with a considerable expedition, with the intention of forming a settlement on the south east coast of New Holland, at Port Philip, altered his destination after a short experience of the difficulties attending a settlement at that place, and arrived in the River Derwent, when the island was formally taken possession of in His Majesty's name, and after various surveys of both banks of the Derwent, the present site of Hobart Town was decided upon for head-quarters. The name was bestowed in compliment to Lord Hobart, at that time Secretary of State for the colonies. Lieutenant-Governor Collins had about

400 convicts under his charge, with about fifty marines to guard them. Such was the first establishment of Van Dieman's Land as a penal settlement.

The colony at times suffered the greatest hardships. For the first three years, the inhabitants being entirely dependent upon foreign supplies for the most common articles of food, were reduced to great straits; so much so, that we read of 1s. 6d. having been given for a pound of Kangaroo flesh, and that sea-weed, or any other vegetable substance at all fit for food, was purchased at an equally exorbitant price.

Sheep and cattle were not introduced for about three years after the island had been settled. Until 1813, Van Dieman's Land was a place of transportation for convicted felons from New South Wales, and all communication with other places than England and New South Wales prohibited. Emigration commenced in 1821; from that time the colony has been in a state of rapid increase, as will be seen by its statistics.

When first discovered, Van Dieman's Land was densely peopled by a dark race of inhabitants, differing somewhat from the natives of New Holland, in the more negro-like cast of countenance, woolly hair, and darker colour. The aborigines of this country were, if possible, still more barbarous and uncivilized than those of the adjacent coast. They subsisted entirely by hunting, and had no knowledge whatever of the art of fishing. Even the rude bark canoe which their neighbours possessed, was quite unknown to them; and whenever they had to pass any sheet of water, they were compelled to construct a wretched raft for the occasion. Their arms and hunting implements also indicated an inferior degree of civilization. The womera, or

throwing-stick, which enables the natives of New South Wales to cast their spears with such amazing force and precision, was not used by them. Their spears, too, instead of being made with the bulrush, and only pointed with hard wood, were composed entirely of it, and were consequently more ponderous. In using them they grasped the centre, but they neither threw them so far, nor so dexterously as the natives of the opposite coast. This circumstance was the more fortunate, as they long maintained the most rancorous and inflexible hatred and hostility towards the white settlers. This deep-rooted enmity, however, did not arise so much from the ferocious nature of the savages, as from the inconsiderate and unjustifiable conduct of our countrymen, shortly after the foundation of the settlement on the River Derwent. At first the natives evinced the most friendly disposition towards the new comers, and would probably have continued to have been actuated by the same feeling, had not the military officer entrusted with the command directed a discharge of grape and canister to be made among a large body, who were approaching, as he imagined, with hostile designs; but, as it has since been believed, with much greater probability, merely from motives of curiosity and friendship. The havoc occasioned among them by this murderous discharge was dreadful. Immediately all communication ceased, and the spirit of animosity which this unmerited and atrocious act of barbarity engendered, was fostered and aggravated to the highest pitch, by the numerous rencontres that subsequently took place, between them and the colonists. Whenever an opportunity offered, they destroyed as many of their enemies as they could, while the colonists, in their turn, never let slip an opportunity of retaliating on their blood-thirsty

neighbours. Fortunately, however, for the colonists, they were seldom known to act on the offensive, except when they happened to meet some of their persecutors singly. Two persons armed with muskets might traverse the island from one end to the other in the most perfect safety. These contests, however, continued till within the last twelve or fifteen years, when a general levy of the white colonists took place. The aborigines were hemmed into one corner of the island, and finally removed, under the protection of the British government, to Flinder's Island, in Bass's Straits. Their numbers, however, were very much diminished; small-pox, famine, and the retaliation of the colonists for the murders of their relations and friends had reduced them to about 150.

The poor natives were not the only enemies the colonists had to contend with. Mr. Wentworth, a native of the colony, writing in 1819, says—"These settlements are in a very bad state of defence, having but two companies of troops for the garrison and protection of them both. They have consequently been infested for a number of years past by a banditti of runaway convicts who have endangered the persons and property of every one that has evinced himself hostile to their enormities. These wretches, who are known in the colony by the name of Bush-rangers, went so far as to write threatening letters to the Lieutenant-Governor and the magistracy. In this horrible state of anarchy, a simultaneous feeling of insecurity and dread naturally pervaded the whole of the inhabitants; and the most respectable part of the agricultural body, with one accord, betook themselves to the towns, as the only means of preserving their lives, gladly abandoning their property, to prevent the much greater sacrifice with which the defence of it would have

been attended. There is no species of outrage and atrocity in which these marauders did not indulge. Murders, incendiaries, and robberies were their ordinary amusements, and have been, for many years past, the leading events in the annals of these unfortunate settlements. Every measure that could be devised was taken for the capture and punishment of these wretches. They were repeatedly outlawed, and the most alluring rewards were set upon their heads; but the insufficiency of the military force, the extent of the island, their superior local knowledge, and the abundance of game, which enabled them to find an easy subsistence, and rendered them independent, except for an occasional supply of ammunition, with which some unknown persons were base enough to furnish them, in exchange for their ill acquired booty; all these circumstances conspired to baffle, for many years, every attempt that was made for their apprehension. This long impunity served only to increase their cruelty and temerity; and it was at last deemed expedient by Lieutenant-Governor Davy to declare the whole island under the operation of martial law. This vigorous exertion of authority was zealously seconded by the respectable inhabitants, many of whom joined the military in the pursuit of the miscreants, and fortunately succeeded, by their joint exertions, in apprehending the most daring of their ringleaders, who were instantly tried by a court-martial, and hanged in chains. This terrible, though necessary example, was followed by a proclamation, offering a general amnesty to all the delinquents who should surrender themselves before a certain day; excepting, however, such of them as had been guilty of murder. The proclamation had the desired effect. All who were not excluded by their crimes availed

themselves of the pardon thus afforded them. But strange to say, they were allowed to remain in the island; and whether they were enamoured of the licentious life they had been so long leading, or whether they distrusted the sincerity of the oblivion promised them, and became apprehensive of eventual punishment, in a few months afterwards they again betook themselves to the woods, and retained those who had been excluded from the amnesty. After this they rivalled their former atrocities, and a general feeling of consternation was excited among the well-disposed part of the community. And here, as it may not be uninteresting to many of my readers to be acquainted with some of the specific outrages of these monsters, I subjoin the following extracts from the *Sydney Gazette* of the 25th January, 1817.

“The accounts of robberies committed by the banditti of bush-rangers in Van Dieman's Land, presents a melancholy picture of the distress to which the more respectable classes of inhabitants are constantly exposed, from the daring acts of those infamous marauders, who are divided into small parties, and are designated by the principal ruffian at their head, of whom one Michael Howe appears to be the most alert in depredation. The accounts received by the *Kangaroo*, which commence from the beginning of November, state that on the 7th of that month, the house and premises of Mr. David Rose, at Port Dalrymple, were attacked and plundered of considerable property, by Peter Sefton and his gang. The delinquents were pursued by the commandant at the head of a strong detachment; but returned, after a five days' hunt, without being able to discover the villains.

“On the night of the 17th of November, the premises of Mr. Thomas Hayes, at Bagdad, were

attacked, at a time when Mr. Stocker and his wife (on their route from Hobart Town to Port Dalrymple, with a cart containing a large and valuable property), and Mr. Andrew Whitehead, had unfortunately put up at the house for the night. Michael Howe was the chief of this banditti, which consisted of eight others. The property of which they plundered Mr. and Mrs. Stocker was upwards of £300 value, among which were two kegs of spirits, one of these they wantonly wasted, by firing a pistol-ball through the head of the keg, which contained eleven gallons. They set their watches by Mr. Whitehead's, which they afterwards returned, but took Mr. Stocker's away with their other plunder."

[The same paper contains a numerous list of atrocities committed by these outlaws, which we omit.] Mr. Wentworth continues—

"All the outrages above enumerated, it will be seen, were perpetrated within the short period of two days; and these settlements continued the scene of similar enormities, until the July following, an interval of nearly eight months. On the serious injury which the industrious of all classes must have experienced in that time, it would be useless here to dilate. It must be evident that such extremes of anarchy could not be of any long duration; and that one or other of these two events became inevitable, either that the exertions and enterprise of the colonists should be brought to a stand, or that these disturbers of the general tranquillity should suffer condign punishment. Fortunately the cause of public justice triumphed, and the majority of these monsters fell victims, either to common distrust, or to the violated laws of their country. And here, after detailing some few of their escapes, I cannot refrain from giving, in turn,

the account of the measures that led to their discomfiture and apprehension, as extracted from the *Sydney Gazette* of the 4th of September, 1817.

“ A meeting of public officers, and principal inhabitants, and settlers was convened at Hobart Town, by sanction of his honour Lieutenant-governor Sorrel, on the 5th of July, for the purpose of considering the most effectual measures for suppressing the banditti; when the utmost alacrity manifested itself to support the views of the government in promoting that desirable object; and a liberal subscription was immediately entered into for that purpose. The following proclamation was immediately afterwards issued by the Lieutenant-governor:—

“ ‘ Whereas the armed banditti, who have for a considerable time infested the interior of this island, did, on the 10th ultimo, make an attack upon the store at George Town, which, being left unprotected, they plundered; taking away two boats, which they afterwards cast ashore at the entrance of Port Dalrymple: and whereas the principal leader in the outrages which have been committed by this band of robbers, is Peter Geary, a deserter from his Majesty's 73rd regiment, charged also with murder, and various other offences: and whereas the undermentioned offenders have been concerned, with the said Peter Geary, in most of these enormities; the following rewards will be paid to any person, or persons, who shall apprehend these offenders, or any of them:—Peter Geary, one hundred guineas: Peter Septon, John Jones, Richard Collyer, eighty guineas each; Thomas Coine, Brown or Brune, a Frenchman, fifty guineas each.

“ ‘ And whereas George Watts, a prisoner, who

absented himself from the Coal River previous to the expiration of his sentence, and who stands charged with various robberies and crimes, is now at large: it is hereby declared that a reward of eighty guineas will be paid to any person or persons who shall apprehend the said George Watts.

“ ‘And all magistrates, and commanders of military stations and parties, and all constables, and others of his Majesty’s subjects, are enjoined to use their utmost efforts to apprehend the criminals above named.’ ”

“ The gang of bush-rangers appeared in the vicinity of Black Brush on Saturday, and were tracked by Serjeant M’Carthy, of the 46th, with his party, on the following morning. On Monday they were at the house at Tea-tree Brush, where they dined; and about three o’clock Serjeant M’Carthy and his party came up. The bush-rangers ran out of the house into the woods, and being eleven in number, and well covered by timber and ground, the eight soldiers could not close with them. After a good deal of firing, Geary, the leader, was wounded, and fell; two others were also wounded. The knapsacks of the whole and their dogs were taken. Geary died the same night, and his corpse was brought into town on Tuesday, as were the two wounded men. ”

“ The remaining eight bush-rangers were seen in the vicinity of the Coal River on Wednesday; but, as they must have been destitute of provisions and ammunition, sanguine hopes were entertained of their speedy fall. ”

“ Dennis Currie and Matthew Riegan, two of the original bush-rangers, surrendered on the Monday following. ”

“ On Wednesday an inquest was held on the

body of Geary, who died of the wound received in the affair at Tea-tree Brush. Verdict—Homicide, in the furtherance of public justice.

“ Jones, a principal of the banditti, was shot in the beginning of August, in the neighbourhood of Swanport. For some days they had not been heard of; but by the extraordinary exertions of Serjeant M’Carthy and his party, were tracked and overtaken at the above place; on which occasion Jones was killed on the spot, by a ball through the head.

“ On the Sunday evening after the above affair, some of the villains effected a robbery at Clarence Plains; but became so excessively intemperate, from intoxication, as to quarrel among themselves; the consequence was, that another of the gang, of the name of Rollards, having been most severely bruised and beaten by his associates, fell into the hands of a settler, and was by him taken a prisoner into Hobart Town. White and Johnson, two others of the gang, were apprehended by Serjeant M’Carthy’s party, on Thursday, the 14th August, being conducted to their haunts by a native woman, distinguished by the name of Black Mary, and another girl.

“ After the above successes in reducing the number of these persons, some of them still continued out on the 16th of August, as appears from a report published: of the old bush-rangers, Septon, Collyer, Coine, and Brune, also Watts, who kept separate from the rest, and Michael Howe, who had before delivered himself up, but took again to the woods.

“ By the 6th of September, nearly the whole of the absentees, of whatever description, had either surrendered or been apprehended; and upon this day, a proclamation was issued, offering the fol-

lowing rewards:—for the apprehension of Michael Howe, one hundred guineas; for George Watts, eighty guineas; and for Brune, the Frenchman, fifty guineas; and in consequence of these prompt and efficacious arrangements, additional captures had been made, which placed it nearly beyond a doubt that Howe is almost if not the only individual of the desperate gangs now at large.”

“ This latter assertion, however, (says Mr. Wentworth,) does not appear to have been correct; for in a Sydney Gazette of the 25th October, we have the following account of the apprehension and surrender of some others of this banditti, and of an unsuccessful attempt to take Michael Howe, which will tend to elucidate the desperate character of this ruffian :—

“ Several witnesses have arrived, as witnesses on the prosecution of offenders transmitted for trial: two of whom are charged with wilful murder: viz., Richard Collyer, as a principal in the atrocious murder of the late William Carlisle and James O’Berne; the other prisoner for murder is John Hilliard, who was only one of the banditti of bush-rangers, but being desirous of giving himself up, determined previously, by force or guile, to achieve some exploit, that might place the sincerity of his contrition beyond doubt. Accident soon brought the above Collyer, together with Peter Septon, another of the banditti, within his power. He attacked and killed Septon, and wounded Collyer, who nevertheless got away, but was soon apprehended. It is for the killing of Septon he is therefore to be tried. Another of the late banditti, George Watts, is come up also, but under no criminal charge, as we are informed, he having been desperately wounded, by Michael Howe, in

an attempt, assisted by William Drew, to take him into Hobart Town a prisoner; but in which exertion Drew was shot dead, by that desperate offender, and Watts nearly killed also.'

"I have been thus copious in extracts from the Sydney Gazette, to show the lamentable state of danger and anarchy in which the colonists of Van Dieman's Land have been kept by an inconsiderable banditti, who, from the imbecility of the local government, have been enabled to continue for many years a triumphant career of violence and impunity. This iniquitous and formidable association may, indeed, be considered as crushed for the moment, although the most desperate member of it is still at large. But what pledge have the well disposed part of the inhabitants that a band, equally atrocious, will not again spring up? What guarantee, in fact, have they that this very ruffian,* the sole centre of the late combination, will not serve as a rallying point to the profligate, and again collect around him a circle of robbers and murderers, as desperate and bloody as the miscreants who have been annihilated? And can the pursuits of industry quietly proceed under the harassing dread which this constant liability to outrage and depredation must inspire? There is no principle less controvertible, than that the subject has the same claims on the government for support and protection, as they have on him for obedience and fidelity. The compact is as binding on the one party as on the other; and it is really discreditable to the established character of this country that any part of its dominions should have

* The best of all guarantees—his death. He was killed by three of his associates.

continued for so long a period the scene of such flagrant enormities, merely from the want of a sufficient military force to insure the due administration of the laws, and to maintain the public tranquillity.'

The general aspect of the interior of Van Dieman's Land is very diversified, but decidedly mountainous, not, however, in ranges, but rather in isolated peaks, varied by lotty table land and extensive fertile vallays or plains.

In this island, as in New Holland, there is every diversity of soil, but certainly, in proportion to the extent of surface of the two countries, Van Dieman's Land contains, comparatively, much less of an indifferent quality. Large tracts of land, perfectly free from timber or underwood, and covered with the most luxuriant herbage, are to be found in all directions, but more particularly, in the neighbourhood of Port Dalrymple. This sort of land is invariably of the best description, and much of it remains unappropriated, which is capable of being immediately converted to all the purposes of husbandry. There the colonist has no expense to incur in clearing his farm; he is not compelled to a great preliminary outlay of capital before he can expect any considerable return; he has only to set fire to the grass, to prepare his land for the reception of the ploughshare; so that, if he but possess a good team of horses or oxen, with a set of harness, and a couple of substantial ploughs, he has the main requisites for commencing an agricultural establishment, and for insuring a complete subsistence for himself and family.

To this great superiority which Van Dieman's Land may justly claim over the parent colony, may be superadded two other items, which are perhaps of equal importance. First, the rivers here have

sufficient fall in them to prevent any excessive accumulation of water from violent or continued rain; and, consequently, free from destructive inundations. Here, therefore, the colonist may settle on the banks of a navigable river, and enjoy all the advantages of sending his produce to market by water, without running the constant hazard of having the fruits of his labour, the golden promise of the year, swept away in an hour by a capricious and domineering element. Secondly, the seasons are more regular and defined, and those great droughts, which occur every ten or twelve years in New South Wales, are altogether unknown. In those years when the whole face of the country in New Holland was literally burnt up, and vegetation completely at a stand still for want of rain, an abundant supply of it fell here, and the harvests in consequence were never more productive. Indeed, since the settlements were first established, the crops have never sustained any serious detriment from an insufficiency of rain; whereas, in the parent colony, there have been, since its foundation, many dearths occasioned by droughts.

The circumstance, therefore, of this island being thus exempt from those calamitous consequences which are so frequent in New Holland from a deficiency of rain, is a most important point of consideration for all such as hesitate in their choice between the two countries, and is well worthy the most serious attention of those who are desirous of emigrating to one or the other of them, with a view to become mere agriculturists.

The climate of this island is equally healthy and much more congenial to the European constitution than that of New Holland. The north-west winds, which are those productive of such violent variations of temperature, are here unknown:

and neither the summers nor winters are subject to any great extremes of heat or cold. The frosts, indeed, are much more severe, and of much longer duration; and the mountains, with which the island abounds, are covered with snow during the greater part of the year; but in the valleys it never lingers more than a few hours. Upon an average, the mean difference of temperature, between these settlements and those of New Holland, to the eastward of the Blue Mountains, may be estimated at ten degrees of Fahrenheit at all seasons of the year. The country to the westward of the Blue Mountains, as has been already stated, is equally cold with any part of Van Dieman's Land.

The spring months are September, October, and November, when the weather is usually bright and clear, with occasional rain and high wind. The thermometer for these months averages from fifty to sixty degrees.

December, January, and February are the summer months. Very little rain falls, in general, during these three months. The productions of the earth, such as grass, corn, and vegetables, ripen about one month earlier than the same kinds would in England, that is in December, which answers to our June; products are gathered which in England arrive at maturity in July.

March, April, and May are the autumn months, and form by far its pleasantest season. The air is then clear and bright, the sky free from clouds and vapours; the medium heat of the day is about sixty-five degrees, and the nights are cool and refreshing. Even in the warmest weather, the evenings and nights are cool in Van Dieman's Land.

The winter months are June, July, and August. In the interior, particularly upon high and exposed

situations, frosts are sometimes severe, and at times a good deal of snow falls; but it is seldom that the sun so entirely loses its power as to suffer an appearance of either frost or snow to continue throughout the day; and the winter is rather contemplated by the inhabitants as a season of moderate and genial rain, sufficient to replenish the storehouses of the earth against the ensuing spring, and facilitate the labours of the husbandman, than as the cold and dismal season of the higher latitudes. The thermometer ranges, upon an average, from forty to forty-eight degrees; now and then, however, for a few days, some degrees lower. The longest day in Van Dieman's Land is fifteen hours twelve minutes; the shortest day, eight hours forty-eight minutes.

In the system of agriculture pursued in the two colonies there is no difference, save that maize is not cultivated here, the climate being rather cold to bring this grain to maturity. Barley and oats, however, arrive at much greater perfection, and afford the inhabitants a substitute, although by no means an equivalent for this highly valuable product. The wheat which is raised here is of much superior quality to the wheat grown in New South Wales, and commands in the Sydney market a difference of price sufficiently great to pay for the cost of transport. Van Dieman's Land wheat is not subject to the weevil, and generally yields from sixty to sixty five pounds per bushel. Potatoes, peas, beans, and turnips are also abundantly raised here. The potatoes are equal to any on the globe, and will keep through the whole year. Advices from Van Dieman's Land, of January 19, 1850, state that cotton planting was likely to become popular. A frost had injured the previous crop, but it was abundantly proved that, with ordinary

care, cotton could be grown. This, at least, would be hailed as a blessing by the mother country, which is at present wholly dependent on foreign nations for the supply of that valuable article.

These settlements do not contain either such a variety or abundance of fruit as New South Wales. The superior coldness of their climate sufficiently accounts for the former deficiency, and the greater recency of their establishment for the latter. The orange, citron, guava, loquat, pomegranate, and many other fruits, which attain the greatest perfection in the parent colony, cannot be produced here at all, without having recourse to artificial means; while many more, as the peach, nectarine, grape, &c., only arrive at a very inferior degree of maturity. On the other hand, the apple; currant, gooseberry, and indeed all those fruits not requiring a warm climate, are raised here in abundance.

The system of rearing and fattening cattle is similar to that pursued in New South Wales. The natural grasses afford an abundance of pasturage at all seasons of the year, and no provision of winter provender, in the shape of hay, or artificial food, is made by the settler for his cattle; yet, notwithstanding this palpable omission, and the greater length and severity of the winter, all manner of stock attain there a much larger size than on the opposite coast. Oxen from three to four years old average here about 700lbs., and wethers from two to three years old, from eighty to ninety pounds; while there, oxen of the same age seldom exceed 500lbs., and wethers, not more than forty pounds. At Port Dalrymple it is no uncommon occurrence for yearlings to weigh from seventy to eighty pounds, and for three year old wethers to weigh 150lbs. and upwards; but

this great disproportion in weight arises in some measure from the greater part of the sheep at this settlement having become, from constant crossing, nearly of the Teeswater breed. Still the superior richness of the natural pastures in these southern settlements is, without doubt, the main cause of the increased weight at which both sheep and cattle arrive; since there is both a kindlier and larger breed of cattle in New South Wales, which, nevertheless, neither weigh as heavy, nor afford as much tallow. This is an incontrovertible proof that the natural grasses possess much more nutritive and fattening qualities in this colony than the other; and the superior clearness of the country is sufficient to account for this circumstance, without taking into the estimate the additional fact, that up to a certain parallel of latitude, to which neither the one or the other of the colonies in question extends, the superior adaptation of the rearing and fattening of cattle is quite unquestionable. The vast increase of sheep in this colony, as we noticed in the former part of this volume, caused the colonists to look out for more accommodation, when they settled on Port Philip as most eligible. The sheep produce fine wool, great quantities of which are annually exported to England, France, and America.

There is also a perfect resemblance between the animal kingdom of this island and New Holland. The native dog, indeed, is unknown here; but in its place there is an animal of the panther kind, which, though not found in such numbers as the native dog is in New South Wales, commits dreadful havoc among the flocks. It is true that its ravages are not so frequent; but when they do happen, they are much more extensive. This animal is of considerable size, and has been known,

in some instances, to measure six feet and a half from the point of the nose to the tip of the tail ; still it is cowardly, and by no means formidable to man : unless, indeed, when taken by surprise, it invariably flies his approach.

In the feathered tribes of the two islands there is scarcely any diversity. Of this the wattle bird, which is about the size of the snipe, and considered a very great delicacy, is the only instance that can be cited.

Like New Holland, it possesses many varieties of poisonous reptiles, but they are neither so venomous nor so numerous as in that island.

Its rivers and seas abound with the same kinds of fish. Oysters are found in great perfection ; and the rocks that border the coasts and harbours are literally covered with mussels. The rivers and lakes abound with very fine eels ; and great quantities of mullet are also caught from November to March.

The dissimilarity between the vegetable kingdoms of the two islands is chiefly confined to their minor productions. In the trees of the forest there is scarcely any difference. Van Dieman's Land wants the cedar, mahogany, and rosewood ; but it possesses very good substitutes for them in the blackwood, and Huon pine, which is a species of the yew tree, and remarkable for its strong odiferous scent and extreme durability.

The geology of Van Dieman's Land is very varied : basalt is supposed to be the principal stratum ; limestone is almost the only mineral that has been brought into general use ; marble of a whitish grey colour, susceptible of a good polish, has been found. In the neighbourhood of Hobart Town, where the soil is frequently exposed, in the progress of improvements, to the depth of six or

eight feet, a soft clayey marl has been found, which is very useful as manure. The limestone is generally of a yellowish or reddish colour, derived, no doubt, from the quantity of oxide of iron with which it is mixed, and which is profusely scattered throughout the whole island. Iron ore is very plentiful. It has been analysed, and found to contain eighty-five per cent of the perfect mineral.

Excellent sandstone for building is obtained in every quarter of the island, and most of the houses in Hobart Town are now built with it, in the place of ill, made bricks, as formerly: it is brought from different parts generally within half a mile of the town. A quarry of a very fine kind has been discovered at Port Arthur, which is peculiarly suitable for filtering-stones, the manufacture of which will be found a profitable employment. Indications of coal have also been found in various places.

Of the metallic ores, besides iron, which is most abundant, specimens of copper, lead, zinc, manganese, and, as some assert, silver and gold have occasionally been met with.

Table Mountain, so called from the great resemblance it bears to the mountain of that name at the Cape of Good Hope, is the most elevated hill, and rises to the height of 3936 feet above the level of the sea. During three-fourths of the year it is covered with snow, and the same violent gusts of wind blow from it as from its mountain namesake; but no gathering clouds on its summit give notice of the approaching storm. The fiery appearance of the heavens, however, affords a sufficient warning to the inhabitants of the country. These blasts are happily confined to the precincts of the mountain, and seldom last above three hours; but nothing can exceed their violence for the time. One voyager says, "I happened to be on board a vessel which

was bound to Hobart Town : in consequence of the winds proving scanty, we were obliged to anchor during the night in D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The following morning we got under weigh, expecting that the sea breeze would set in by the time the anchor was hove up. The seamen had no sooner effected this, and made all sail, than we were overtaken with one of these mountain hurricanes. In an instant, the vessel was on her beam-ends, and in another, had not all the sheets and halyards been let go, she would either have upset, or had her masts carried away. The moment the sails were clued up, we brought-to again; and as we lay in a harbour perfectly land-locked and very narrow, the vessel easily rode out this blast. It only lasted about two hours ; but the breeze did not succeed it that day. The next morning, however, it set in as usual. During the continuance of this mountain tornado, the waters of the harbour were terribly agitated, and taken up in the same manner as dust is collected by what are called whirlwinds in the country. So great indeed was its fury, that it required us to hold on by the ropes, with all our force, in order to enable us to keep our footing."

A chain, called the Western Mountains, possessing a general height of 3500 feet, runs through the centre of the island, extending its whole length, from north to south. They enclose several lakes, and give rise to the principal rivers. Of these the Derwent, Hudson, and Tamar, rank in the first class.

There is, perhaps, no island in the world that can boast of more fine harbours. The best are the Derwent, Port Davy, McQuarrie Harbour, Port Dalrymple, and Oyster Bay.

The harbour at and conducting to the river Derwent, yields to none in the world—perhaps

surpasses every other. There are two entrances to this river, which are separated by Pitt's Island; one of these is named D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, the other Storm Bay. D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, from Point Collins up to Hobart Town, a distance, following the course of the river, of thirty-seven miles, is one continued harbour, varying in breadth from two to eight miles, and in depth from four to thirty fathoms. The river Derwent itself has three fathoms of water for eleven miles above the town, and is consequently navigable thus far for vessels of the largest burthen. Reckoning, therefore, from Point Collins, there is a line of harbour, in D'Entrecasteaux's Channel and the Derwent together, of forty-eight miles, completely land-locked, and affording excellent anchorage the whole way.

The entrance by Storm Bay, however, does not offer the same advantages; for it is twenty-two miles broad from Maria's Island to Penguin Island, and completely exposed to the winds from the south to the south-east. The bay, consequently, does not afford the same commanding anchorage as D'Entrecasteaux's Channel. It contains, however, some few nooks, in which vessels may take shelter in case of necessity. The principal of these is Adventure Bay, which is shut in from any winds that can blow directly from the ocean, but is nevertheless exposed to the north-east winds, which have a reach of twenty miles from the opposite side of the bay. There is, consequently, when these winds prevail, a considerable swell here; but the force of the sea is in a great measure broken by Penguin Island; and vessels possessing good anchors and cables have nothing to fear.

Storm Bay, besides forming one of the entrances to the river Derwent, leads to another very good

harbour called North Bay. This harbour is about sixteen miles long, and in some places about six and a half miles broad. The greater part of it is perfectly land-locked, and affords excellent anchorage in from twelve to ninety feet water. That part, in particular, called Norfolk Bay forms a very spacious harbour of itself, being about three miles in breadth, and nine in length. This bay, besides being better sheltered than the rest of the harbour, contains the greatest depth of water, having in no place less than twenty-four feet.

All the bays and inlets around Van Dieman's Land abound with the black whale at a particular season of the year. The leviathans of the deep quit the boisterous ocean, and seek the more tranquil waters of the harbours, when they are on the point of breeding. This happens in November, and they remain there, with their young, between two and three months. During this period there are, generally, every year, a few of the colonial craft employed in the whale fishery; but the duties, which were levied in this country on all oils procured in vessels not having a British register, amounted, for a long time, to a prohibition, and prevented the colonists from prosecuting this fishery further than was necessary for their own consumption, and for the supply of the East India market. Between two and three hundred tons, annually, sufficed for both purposes.

The whales frequently go up the river Derwent as far as Hobart Town; and it is no uncommon sight for its inhabitants to behold the whole method of taking them; from the moment they are harpooned, until they are killed by the frequent application of the lance. This sight, indeed, has been occasionally witnessed by the inhabitants of Sydney; since it has sometimes happened, that a

stray fish has entered the harbour of Port Jackson while some of the South-sea whalers have been lying there, and that these have lowered their boats and killed it.

A writer of the period when the colonists were restricted from pursuing this profitable occupation, on account of the heavy duties, very justly reprobates the system: he says—"All the bays and the hours in Van Dieman's Land, and most of those like wise which are in Bass's Straits, and on the southern coast of New Holland, abound with these fish at the same season. If the colonists, therefore, were not thus restricted from this fishery, it would soon become an immense source of wealth to them; and I have no doubt that they would be enabled to export many hundred tons annually to Great Britain. But it is in vain that Nature has been thus lavish of her bounties to them; in vain do their seas and their harbours invite them to embark in these inexhaustible channels of wealth and enterprise. Their government—that government which ought to be the foremost in developing their nascent efforts, and fostering them to maturity—is itself the first to check their growth and impede their advancement. What a miserly system of legislation is it which thus locks up from its own subjects a fund of riches, that might administer to the wants, and contribute to the happiness of thousands! What barbarous tantalization, to compel them to thirst in the midst of the waters of abundance."

Van Dieman's Land is divided into thirty-five counties: Buckinghamshire, on the south, is the metropolitan county, and Cornwall, on the north of the island, contains Launceston and George Town. These are again subdivided into fifteen police districts: viz., Hobart Town, Launceston, Norfolk

Plains, Campbell Town, Oatlands, Richmond, New Norfolk, Brighton, Bothwell, Hamilton, Westbury, Great Swan Port, George Town, Circular Head, and Tasman's Peninsula.

Hobart Town, the capital of the island and the seat of government, is an extensive, well laid out, and neatly built town, on the river Derwent, about twenty miles from its mouth. The cove or bay, upon the banks of which Hobart Town is built affords one of the best and most secure anchorages in the world, for any number of vessels, and of any burthen.

An amphitheatre of gently rising hills, beautifully clothed with trees, and having Mount Wellington (3,500 feet in elevation) as the highest, defends it from the westerly winds, and bounds the horizon in that quarter; while the magnificent estuary of the Derwent, with its boats and shipping, and picturesque points of land along its winding banks, forming beautiful bays and lakes, skirts it on the east.

The town itself stands upon a gently rising ground, and covers rather more than one square mile. Its streets are wide, long, and intersecting each other at right angles. Being for the most part built of freestone, it has even a more city-like appearance than Sydney. It contains several churches belonging to the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic establishments, which are supported by the government; besides chapels belonging to the Wesleyan Methodists, Baptists, Independents, Quakers, and a Jewish synagogue, which are of course supported by their respective congregations.

The suburbs of Hobart Town has, within these few years, undergone considerable improvement; handsome villas and enclosures, occupying ground

in every direction, which in some places would have been supposed to bid defiance to the hand of art. A noble wharf has been constructed, so as to allow vessels of the largest burthen to load or unload close alongside the shore without the assistance of boats.

Hobart Town contains three banking establishments, and the following manufactures and trades: agricultural implement makers; brewers, candle manufactories, coopers, coachmakers, distillers, dyers, engineers, fellmongers, foundries, furriers, mast and block manufactory, steam mills, water and wind mills, potteries, printing offices, ropemakers, sailmakers, saw mills, shipbuilders, snuff manufactory, soap manufactory, sugar-boilers, tanners, woolstaplers, besides bricklayers, carpenters, stonemasons, plumbers, painters, tailors, shoemakers, &c. &c. The rates of wages are higher in Hobart Town than in Sydney.

The following description of Hobart Town, written in 1819, will show the extent of the improvements that have taken place since that period:—

“It was founded only fifteen years since; and indeed the rudeness of its appearance sufficiently indicates the recency of its origin. The houses are in general of the meanest description, seldom exceeding one story in height, and being for the most part weather-boarded without, and lathed and plastered within. Even the Government House is of very bad construction. The residences indeed of many private individuals far surpass it. The population may be estimated at about one thousand souls. (It may now be computed at twenty four thousand.)

“This town is built principally on two hills, between which there is a fine stream of excellent

water, that issues from the Table Mountain. On this stream a flour mill has been erected, and there is sufficient fall in it for the erection of two or three more. There are also, within a short distance of the town, several other streams which originate in the same mountain, and are well adapted to similar purposes."

Launceston is next in rank and commercial importance. It is situated on the north side of the island, distant, by a good road, 121 miles from Hobart Town. This neighbourhood contains the richest land in the island, backed by gently rising hills, at the confluence of the north and south Esk rivers, which there form the Tamar, flowing about forty-five miles, when it disembogues itself into Bass's Straits. This town is thriving rapidly, owing to its being the maritime key of a large and fertile country, and affording sufficient water for vessels of 400 tons burthen to load and discharge cargoes alongside the wharfs, which are commodious.

The following will show the increase of the population in Van Dieman's Land, since the establishment of the colony:—viz., in 1804, 400; 1816, 629; 1822, 4,996; 1827, 7,260; 1830, 10,195; 1837, 44,121; 1847 (the latest census), 70,164, or fifty-nine per cent increase on the last ten years.

The following are the places of worship in Van Dieman's Land: Church of England, 12; Presbyterians, 4; Roman Catholics, 2; Wesleyans, 2; Independents, 1: Total, 21. Two new churches are now building.

The government pays great attention to the education of the young. The following is an abstract of the state of the Government Schools:—

1. *Back River*. One daily school, attended by

7 males, and 12 females. The number of children admitted since the commencement is 37. Government allows £25. per annum towards the rent of a school-house. The mistress receives £25. per annum; in addition to which eight of the children pay 1s. a week each. The children are taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar; the girls also learn marking, netting, and ~~what~~ needlework.

2. *Bagdad.* One daily school; 7 males and 15 females. Number of children 41. Of the daily scholars 12, of both sexes, also attend on Sundays. Government allows £25. per annum towards the rent of a school-house. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which nineteen of the scholars pay £3. 10s. 7d. a week. Reading, grammar, geography, writing, arithmetic, and the Latin rudiments; the girls likewise learn needlework, &c.

3. *Bothwell.* One daily school; 17 males, 10 females. Number of children 41. Twenty-six, of both sexes, also attend on Sundays. The school-house belongs to government. Master £25. per annum, in addition to which ten of the schoolboys pay 10s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

4. *Brighton.* One daily school; 5 males and 6 females. Number of children 17. Government allows £20. per annum towards the rent of a school-house. Master £25. per annum; in addition to which seven of the scholars pay 7s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

5. *Campbell Town.* One daily school; 5 males and 13 females. Number of children 37. Government allows £25. per annum towards the rent of the school house. Master £25., mistress £15. per annum; in addition to which eight of the scholars

pay 8s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

6. *Carlton*. One daily school; 7 males and 6 females. Number of children 37. Of the daily scholars 13 attend also on Sundays. Government allows £10. per annum for rent of a school-house. Master £30. per annum; in addition to which nine of the scholars pay 9s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

7. *Clarence Plains*. One daily school; 15 males and 11 females. Number of children 99. The school-house is government property. Master £50., mistress £25.; in addition to which twenty-three of the scholars pay 29s. 7d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, history, geography, arithmetic, and the Latin language.

8. *Evandale*. One daily school; 9 males and 4 females. Number of children 23. Of the daily scholars thirteen attend also on Sundays. Government allows £25. for rent of school-house, Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which twenty-one of the scholars pay 11s. 6d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar.

9. *George Town*. One daily school; 10 males and 8 females. Number of children 19. Of the daily scholars eighteen attend also on Sundays. The school-house belongs to government. Master £50., mistress £25.; in addition to which thirteen of the children pay 13s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography; the girls are also taught needlework, &c.

10. *Glenorchy*. One daily school; 12 males and 13 females. Number of children 41. Twenty also attend on Sundays. Government allows £25. per annum for rent of school-house. Master £50., mistress £25.; in addition to which nine of the

children pay 9s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, with needlework for the girls.

11. *Green Ponds*. One daily school; 12 males and 8 females. Number of children 29. Of the daily scholars fourteen also attend on Sundays. Government allows £25. per annum for rent of school-house. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which twelve of the scholars pay 12s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, geography, grammar, arithmetic, with needlework for the girls.

12. *Hamilton*. One daily school; 8 males and 7 females. Number of children 29. Government allows £25. per annum for rent of school-house. Master £25., mistress £15. per annum; in addition to which ten of the scholars pay 6s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, geography and arithmetic.

13. *Hobart and Suburbs—St. David's parish*. Two daily schools; one of which, belonging to the Established Church, is attended by 31 males and 19 females. Number of children 1,332. Of the daily scholars twenty-four also attend on Sundays. Government rents the school-house at £115. 10s. per annum. Master £88., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which twenty-six of the children pay 7s. 9d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

14. From the other school, which belongs to Roman Catholics, no return has been made.

15. *Sandy Bay, or Queensbro' parish*. One daily school; 9 males and 10 females. Number of children 57. Of the daily scholars twelve attend also on Sundays. Master £30., mistress £30. per annum; in addition to which fourteen of the children pay 9s. 6d. per week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

16. *Trinity parish.* One daily school; 70 males and 54 females. Number of children 260. Sixty-nine attend also on the Sundays. Government rents the school-house at £80. per annum, but it is too small for the number of children now attending it. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which 124 of the scholars pay £3. 12s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, grammar, geography, and arithmetic.

17. *Launceston.* One daily school; 26 males and 19 females. Number of children 735. Of the daily scholars thirty-two also attend on Sundays. The school-house belongs to government. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which eight of the scholars pay 4s. 9d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

18. *Longford.* No return.

19. *New Norfolk.* One daily school; 17 males and 6 females. Number of children 54. Of the daily scholars thirty attend also on Sundays. Government rents a school-house at £25. per annum. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which nine of the scholars pay 4s. 6d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, grammar, geography, and arithmetic, with needlework for the girls.

20. *Norfolk Plains, east.* One daily school; 8 males and 9 females. Number of children 61. Of the daily scholars thirteen also attend on Sundays. The school-house is private property, for which no rent is charged. Master £25., per annum; in addition to which twelve of the scholars pay 12s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar.

21. *Oatlands.* One daily school; 12 males and 14 females. Number of children 32. Of the daily scholars four attend also on Sundays. Government

allows £25. per annum for the rent of a school-house. Master £25., mistress £15. per annum; in addition to which eighteen of the scholars pay 13s. 6d. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic.

22. *Perth*. One daily school; 6 males and 8 females. Number of children 36. Of the daily scholars nine attend also on Sundays. Master £25.; mistress £15. per annum; in addition to which ten of the scholars pay 7s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

23. *Port Arthur*. One daily school; 10 males and 6 females. School-house is government property. Master £25. per annum. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

24. *Richmond*. One daily school; 8 males and 8 females. Number of children 27. School-house belongs to government. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which nine of the children pay 14s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, geography, and arithmetic, with needle-work for the girls.

25. *Ross*. No return.

26. *Sorell*. One daily school; 18 males and 12 females. Number of children 220. School-house government property. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which fifteen of the scholars pay 7s. a week. Spelling, reading, history, grammar, writing, and arithmetic.

27. *Springs*. One daily school; 8 males and 7 females. Number of children 38. Government rents the school-house at £25. per annum. Master 25. per annum; in addition to which eleven of the scholars pay 7s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

28. *Westbury*. One daily school; 12 males and 5 females. Number of children 19. The

whole of the daily scholars attend also on Sundays. School-house belongs to government. Master £50., mistress £25. per annum; in addition to which six of the scholars pay 6s. a week. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic.

* 29. *York.* One daily school; 12 males and 1 female. Number of children 20. Government allows £25. per annum for a school house. Master £25. per annum; in addition to which four of the children pay 2s. 6d. a week. Spelling, ~~reading~~, writing, English grammar, and arithmetic.

Total number of schools 29; number which have made returns 26. In these 26 the number of scholars are—males 361, females 294; total 655. Number of Sunday schools 18; of scholars 343. Number of children who pay towards their education 415. Amount of weekly payments £18. 11s. 2d. Spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught in 15; English grammar and geography, in 12; Latin, in 2. Of the 26 schools, 13 have both master and mistress; 8 have only a master; 18 are conducted on Bell's system, 1 on the British and Foreign School, and in 10 an anomalous system is pursued.

In addition to the schools mentioned above, there are the King's Orphans' schools at Newton, containing 216 males and 200 females and the school at Point Puer, in which all the boys sent to that establishment are taught reading, a knowledge of the Scriptures, &c.

Besides these, there are a number of private seminaries throughout the island, in which all the branches of education are taught. Nine of these are in Hobart Town, and eight in Launceston.

The annual expense to the government for educational purposes averages from £7 000. to £8,000.

The revenue of Van Dieman's Land is derived

from customs duties, excise, fees, sales of land, quit rents, &c. Goods of British manufacture are imported free; goods of foreign manufacture are charged 5 per cent. *ad valorem*. Spirits are charged with a duty of 10s. per gallon on brandy, hollands, and geneva; West-India rum or British gin, 7s. 6d.; tobacco, 1s. 6d. per lb.; a license to distil or sell spirits costs £25. per annum; to bake or sell bread, 5s.; to slaughter cattle or sheep, 5s.; to keep a dog, on the chain, 5s., off ditto, 10s., and a bitch ditto, £1.; to keep a cart for hire, 5s.; auctioneer's license, £3. 3s.; marriage license, £4. 4s. There are also fees on grants of lands equivalent to stamp duties. The post office produces a clear income of upwards of £2,500. The annual revenue of Van Dieman's Land exceeds £200,000.

The rapidly increasing trade of this colony has augmented the value of imports nearly tenfold, within the last twenty years, and now amount to about £650,000. annually; and the tonnage has been extended in the proportion of seven to one. The value of land and cattle has increased, during the same period, 450 per cent.

The principal exports of the colony consist of wool, whale and seal oil, whalebone, and bark to Great Britain; and provisions and live stock to the neighbouring colonies. The quantity of wool exported annually is about three million pounds, which sells in the London market at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. The total exports amount to about £700,000.

A "Van Dieman's Land Company" was incorporated, by act of parliament, in 1825, the main objects of which will be best understood by inserting the following—

ABSTRACT OF THE VAN DIEMAN'S LAND
COMPANY'S CHARTER.

The Van Dieman's Land Company's Charter, bearing date 1st September, 1825, is founded on the Act of the 6th Geo. IV. 4. c. 29.

The charter, after setting forth the objects contemplated in the Act, defines the scope of the operations of the company. It empowers the company to expend their capital in the improvement of their lands, and the construction of works thereon, and in providing passages for free emigrants. It conveys the power of working mines and raising minerals, subject to such conditions as might be imposed by the colonial government.

The company may make loans, on the security of "lands and hereditaments" situated within the colony, to the amount of £50,000. in the whole; a record of each such transaction to be enrolled in the supreme court, within one month from the date thereof.

They are also empowered to make loans to the amount of £20,000. on any "bonds or judgments" (such loans to be subject to the further regulation of the government); but they are prohibited from entering into any banking operations. Loans may be made, without restriction, to persons settling on their lands, for the purpose of making improvements.

They may enter into contracts for public works to the amount of £50,000. This license, however, to continue for ten years only, and be then subject to renewal, or to be withdrawn.

They may advance money to the government to the amount of £100,000. on security of the colonial taxes or tolls. This license to continue for ten years only, subject to renewal.

They may advance money on whale or seal fisheries, to the extent of £20,000.

They may expend capital to the amount of £20,000. in "houses, wharfs, and buildings," and also to the amount of £10,000. for any other description of real property, "lands or hereditaments." Such last mentioned property (not being a wharf, house, or other building) to be only through a license from the governor. The secretary of state for the colonies, may authorise the company to increase such loans and investments of capital, should it appear for the benefit of the colony to do so. Provision is then made for regulating the tenure of the grant.

1. The grants to be made under the seal of the colony, in pursuance of warrants under the royal sign manual.

2. A quit-rent to be chargeable of one and a half per cent. on the lands.

3. No quit-rent to be due or payable for five years from the date of the grant.

4. May redeem the quit-rent by payment of twenty times its amount.

5. They must employ an equal number of convicts to their number of free labourers, provided the governor should be able to supply such a number.

6. One free overseer to be employed to every fifty convicts.

7. None of the company's land to be alienated for five years from the date of the grant, under the penalty of a forfeiture to the crown.

8. The company to have the power of alienating any portion of their land, after such period of five years, not exceeding 12,500 acres, after having proved to the local government an expenditure of £2,500.; and so on in like proportion, and on

similar conditions, to the extent of one-half their grants; they may also lease, for any period not exceeding twenty-one years, any portions of their land, to the extent of one-half their grant.

9—11. The quit-rent chargeable on the company's land shall be paid at intervals of five years; the first payment to be made after the expiration of ten years from the date of the grant. It is also provided, that the quit-rent may be reduced by the employment and maintenance of 150 convicts during the greater part of the second period of five years from the date of the grant; of 250 convicts during the third period; and of 350 during the fourth period.

12. The lands shall be free from quit-rent if, within twenty years from the date of the grant, the company shall make it appear that they have relieved the local treasury from a charge equal to £25,000. by the maintenance of convicts, to be calculated at the rate of £16. for each convict supported during the year.

The capital of the company is fixed at one million sterling, to be raised in shares of one hundred pounds each.

Then follow various provisions relative to the appointment of directors, office-bearers, meetings, &c., &c.

The following letter from Lord Bathurst, secretary of state for the colonies, will show to the reader the terms on which government were at that time disposed to grant land in the colony of Van Dieman's Land to English companies possessed of capital. It is addressed to Mr. Edward Curr, secretary to the proposed Van Diemau's Land Company.—

“ Downing Street, 15th April, 1825. .

“ SIR,
“ HAVING had under my consideration, the letter which on the 22nd ultimo you addressed to me, on behalf of the merchants and others, who have associated themselves together as a company, for the cultivation and improvement of waste lands in his Majesty's island of Van Dieman's Land, I have thought it right, in transmitting my answer to your proposals, to avail myself of the opportunity this correspondence affords, of stating to you explicitly the terms upon which I am prepared to advise his Majesty to sanction the formation of the projected company.

“ It would be superfluous to state in this place the reasons which have induced me to consider the establishment of a company for the cultivation and improvement of waste lands, in more than one of his Majesty's colonies, as an undertaking deserving the support of his Majesty's government. It is sufficient to express the conviction of his Majesty's government, that the introduction of capital, judiciously applied, cannot fail to produce the most beneficial results. It must, therefore, form the essential basis of every such plan, that adequate security should be given that the nominal capital of any company of this description will be really raised and expended in carrying the avowed designs of the subscribers into effect.

“ I must, therefore, stipulate, on behalf of his Majesty's government, that, before any bill is brought into Parliament for investing the Van Dieman's Land Company with the necessary powers, four-fifths of the capital, at least, should be actually subscribed, and I shall expect to receive, on the personal credit of the very respectable gentlemen whose names are placed at the head of the proposed company, an assurance that the subscribers are, in general, persons of capital and substance adequate to the payment of their subscriptions.

“ I shall further require, as a necessary preliminary to the granting of the charter, that the subscribers shall actually pay up, and deposit in the hands of the directors, five per cent. upon the amount of the capital subscribed, and an additional five per cent. on that amount, before the lands to be granted by the crown are actually delivered into the possession of the company. If, in addition to these securities, it were possible to render the shares of the capital stock of the company inalienable for a few years, I should be much disposed to insist on such a condition. But being, in full consideration of the subject, persuaded that the

number of exceptions to such a rule which must be admitted, combined with the various contrivances which might be devised for eluding its operation, would deprive the rule itself of all practical efficacy, I have decided not to insist upon such a condition. As a substitute for it, however, I shall expect the company to agree to the following regulation:—The capital originally subscribed will be divided into shares of £50. each, and the certificate to be delivered to the shareholders will be expressed accordingly. But as in the progress of the undertaking it may be necessary that additional capital should be raised, it will be provided that his Majesty's government may authorise the creation of an additional capital, equal in amount to that originally subscribed.

"This additional capital will also be divided into shares of £50. each, and the original subscribers will be required to agree, for themselves, and their representatives, that each person will accept a number of the second set of shares equal to the number which, at the time of such increase of capital, he may hold in the original shares.

"Although the sanction of his Majesty's government will precede the increase of capital, it is, on the other hand, to be understood that this sanction will not be given unless it shall be applied for in a petition adopted at a general meeting of the subscribers, and unless his Majesty's government shall receive satisfactory proof that a considerable proportion of the original capital has been *bona fide* applied and expended in the prosecution of the undertaking.

"The capital to be originally subscribed will be £500,000. sterling, and will be divided into ten thousand shares. Each director and auditor of the company will be required to hold fifty shares, as the necessary qualification for his admission and continuance in those offices.

"It is necessary that the manner in which it shall be lawful for the company to employ this capital should be defined, with as much precision as the nature of the subject will admit; for it must be clearly understood, that every intentional deviation from the mode of employment authorised by the terms of the charter, according to their fair and equitable construction, will be deemed a violation of the terms upon which such charter was granted.

"As soon as the proposed charter of incorporation shall be obtained, and the necessary survey completed, I shall be ready to advise his Majesty to make to the company a grant of two hundred and fifty thousand acres of land in the Island of Van Dieman's Land; and one of the primary

objects in which the company will be authorised to expend their capital will be the clearing, improvement, and cultivation of this tract of land. The words "improvement and cultivation," will be understood in a large and liberal sense, as including the formation of roads, drains, and bridges; the erection of houses, mills, and other works and machinery, necessary or convenient for the occupation or profitable cultivation of the soil; the depasturing of sheep or cattle, and generally such operations of agriculture or pasturage as the exigences and peculiar situation of settlers, in a new colony, may require.

Another mode of employing the capital of the company, will consist in the defraying the expenses incident to the emigration of persons proposing to settle upon any part of the company's estates; in which of course is included all charges of freight, outfit, and other expenses incident to the removal of emigrants, and to the settling them on their arrival.

"With respect to the operations of mining, it may be necessary to remark that the crown has always reserved to itself, upon the grant of waste land in the colonies, all mines and minerals beneath the surface. A similar reservation will be made in the grant which may be issued in favour of the proposed company. Permission, however, will be given to the company to accept leases or grants of mines from his Majesty within the Island of Van Dieman's Land, and to employ their capital in raising minerals, and in all other expenses ordinarily incident to that operation. It will, however, be clearly understood that the company is not to engage in any mining concerns, except upon such lands as may be expressly demised or granted to them by the crown for that purpose, and that such grants or leases will prescribe such conditions as may from time to time appear necessary to his Majesty, for preventing the capital of the company being engaged in these undertakings to an unreasonable extent, or in an improvident manner. It is scarcely necessary to add, that it will be altogether optional with the crown to make or to withhold such grants or leases, and that without an express grant or lease the company will not be at liberty to engage in mining operations, even upon their own lands. The ordinary operations of quarrying, or raising lime, clay, or other materials for building, do not, fall within the meaning of this prohibitory rule.

"The employment of the capital of the company in making loans to settlers will be permitted, but this power

must not be exercised, except under such restrictions as have appeared to me necessary for preventing the abuses to which such a power, if unrestricted, might obviously lead. First, then, it will be required that all loans of this nature should be matter of public record, and that the whole amount of the money for which the company may at any one time be in advance to settlers, shall not exceed £50,000 sterling. Further, the company will be permitted to lend money on mortgage to persons not settled on their own estates, but in such a manner as only will give them, in default of payment, the right, not of foreclosure, but of sale; and in every loan made on mortgage a provision shall be introduced for the repayment of the money borrowed by instalments. In the event of the company bringing the estate of their debtor to a judicial sale, they will not be permitted to become the purchasers of it from the sheriff, for any price greater than the sums which the company may have vested on the mortgage of such estate.

The preceding regulations respecting the lending of money on mortgage will not extend to the case of persons effecting settlements on the company's estates. I do not deem it necessary to limit the amount of capital which may be advanced to this class of settlers, or to restrain the company from entering into such contracts with them, as, upon general principles of law, may be made by way of mortgage between any private capitalist and the owners of the land.

"With respect to the employment of the capital of the company on loans to private individuals upon mere personal security, it is requisite to lay down explicitly the distinction which it will be necessary to observe. It cannot be too plainly stated, that transactions in the nature of banking operations cannot be permitted. The company will therefore not be at liberty to lend any money at interest to any private person by way of discount upon bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other negotiable securities which, by the custom of trade, are transferrable by delivery, or by a simple indorsement; still less can they be allowed to open a running account with any private person in the nature of an ordinary banker's account. But they will be permitted to advance money to any private person resident in the island on the security of bonds or judgments, provided that the whole amount of such loans shall not at any time exceed £20,000, and subject to such regulations as may from time to time be laid down for the prevention of abuses.

"The employment of a portion of the capital of the company in the accomplishment of public works will be expressly sanctioned: but here also the permission must be qualified by such limitations as have appeared to be necessary to obviate its possible abuse. In the first place, the company will not be permitted, at any one time, to embark more than £50,000 in the whole, in any undertaking of this nature. At the expiration of ten years from the date of this charter, the power of employing any part of their capital in the execution of public works, will cease, unless his Majesty's government shall, at that period, see fit to continue that power for a further period. And finally, the company will not consider themselves as having any claim to be preferred above private persons in contracts of this nature, unless their proposals should, by the local government, be deemed more advantageous than those of any other candidates.

"If the governor and legislative council of the colony should, at any time, pass an act for borrowing money for the public service, on the securities of tolls, or other public taxes, the company will be permitted, in the event of such acts being confirmed by his Majesty, to become competitors for any such loans, provided that they are never in advance, on that account, in a greater sum than £100,000 at any one time. This power of making loans will, however, expire in ten years from the date of the charter, unless it should then be renewed for a limited period, by the express sanction of his Majesty's government.

"Whaling and sealing are mentioned in your letter as affording a mode in which the capital of the company might be invested, with advantage to the colony. The conduct of a whale fishery upon an extensive scale, requires so much attention, and so large an expenditure, and involves so much risk, that I cannot deem it right to sanction the diversion of the capital of the company or the time of its agents, into such a channel. But so far as whaling and sealing, undertaken on the account and risk of others, can be promoted by loans of money to be made by the company, according to the preceding conditions, there will be no objection to that employment of it, to an extent not exceeding £20,000.

"Having thus defined in general the purposes for which the capital of the company may be employed, I proceed to state the general rule, that it is not to be engaged in any species of trade. Without undertaking to furnish a

precise definition of the general term, I would be understood to mean by "trade" any transaction in the nature and barter of sale, which might not be fairly and *bona fide* undertaken for the purpose of converting into cash, or remitting to other ports, in the most convenient and economical manner, the produce of the company's lands.

"The investment of the capital of the company in the purchase of lands in the colony, will not be permitted except in special cases, in which they shall first obtain the license of the governor, it being understood, that even with his license, they can never at any one time have invested in the purchase of land more than £10,000.

"In reference to your request that the company may be at liberty to invest some portion of its capital in the purchase of houses and wharfs in the different townships, I am to apprise you that to the extent of £20,000, such investments will be permitted, and that for that purpose the license of the local government will not be necessary.

"As the preceding limitations, with regard to the amount of the capital which the company may embark in the several particular operations above enumerated, may in process of time require revision, a power will be reserved to the crown to authorise by a license, through the secretary of state, any augmentation of such advances, which experience may show to be necessary or desirable.

"With respect to the grant and selection of the lands to be conceded to the company, the following rules will be observed :

"The company will receive their grant in the north-west district of the island, that district being for the present purpose, 'considered as bounded on the north by Bass's Straits ; on the west by the ocean, and on the east and south by lines drawn from either shore so as to afford the necessary depth of country. Within that district they will be at liberty to select any ungranted lands at their own discretion. Those lands must however lie in one continuous and unbroken tract, approximating to the form of a square, as nearly as may be, compatible with preserving a clear and well defined natural boundary. The whole quantity of useful land, that is, land capable of being used in pasturage or tillage, to be contained in this square, is two hundred and fifty thousand acres. Whatever useless and unprofitable land may be unavoidably included in order to complete the square figure, will be granted to the company gratuitously.

"The survey and valuation of the land thus to be

granted to the company will be carried into effect by five commissioners, of whom two will be appointed by the crown, and two by the company. The fifth commissioner will be elected by the four thus appointed. If the majority cannot concur in the election within fourteen days after their own appointment, then at the expiration of that period, the governor or officer administering the government of Van Dieman's Land, will, on his Majesty's behalf, nominate a fifth commissioner. In the event of the death, resignation, or absence from the colony of any one of the four commissioners before the survey is completed, a successor will be appointed by the surviving or continuing commissioners; and if they cannot concur in electing a successor within fourteen days after the vacancy has occurred, the nomination will be made by the officer administering the government of the island.

"The remuneration of the commissioners appointed by his Majesty will be provided for and paid by his Majesty; that of the commissioners appointed by the company will be provided for and paid by them. The remuneration of the fifth commissioner, and the other expenses incident to the commission, will be provided and paid for equally between his Majesty and the company, those expenses being first taxed and allowed by the officer administering the government of the island.

"The commissioners will make a report in writing to the governor or the lieutenant governor, of the result of their survey and valuation, and a report of the majority of their number must be taken as the report of the whole body. In that report, they will state with all possible precision, the exact limits of the grant to be made to the company, especially distinguishing all the natural boundaries; and they will also state the average value per acre of that part of the land which is capable of being employed in pasturage or tillage.

"So soon as the limits of the intended grant shall be thus ascertained, the officer for administering the government of the island will be authorised to issue a grant of it to the company, to be held by them and their successors in free and common soccage. In this grant a quit-rent will be charged upon the land, amounting to 30s. per annum, upon every hundred pounds of the ascertained value of the land to be comprised in the grant. The quit-rent will not become payable until after the expiration of five years from the date of the grant. Upon giving six months' notice in writing to the local government, the

company will be at liberty to redeem the quit-rent, or any part of it, by paying into the colonial treasury a sum equal to twenty times the amount of the rent proposed to be extinguished. If the local government should be able and willing to supply the company with a number of convict labourers, not exceeding the number of free labourers employed by them in their grant, the company will accept such convicts, and employ and maintain them at their own expense. If within fifteen years from the date of the grant, it shall be made to appear that the company have saved to his Majesty's government, by the maintenance of convicts, the sum of £25,000 sterling, then all the lands contained in such grant will be for ever exonerated from all future quit-rents. It will be estimated that his Majesty's government has saved £16 sterling by each convict wholly kept and maintained by the company for one year.

"In order to carry into full effect the preceding conditions, and to invest the company with all the powers which may be necessary for the accomplishment of their undertaking, I will recommend the necessary measures for obtaining a charter of incorporation under the great seal of the United Kingdom, and for introducing into Parliament a bill for granting to the company such necessary powers as it would not be competent to his Majesty, in the exercise of his prerogative, to confer.

"I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant,

(Signed)

"BATHURST."

"Edward Curr, Esq.

"48, Lothbury."

Such were the rules and regulations laid down for the formation of this company; and these having been eagerly embraced, the necessary measures were taken for obtaining the charter of incorporation. It was accordingly established in 1825, with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, divided into 10,000 shares of £100 each.

The general management of the affairs of the company in London is vested in a governor, deputy-governor, eighteen directors, three auditors, and the secretary to the company.

"The company is incorporated in the name of His Majesty the King of Great Britain."

volves upon the chief agent ; and the main objects are—"To let lands in locations of one square mile or 640 acres. The rent to be £64 per annum for the 640 acres. The first year and a half's rent to be expended by the tenant in fencing ; half of the next half-year's rent, or £16, also to be expended in permanent improvements, and the balance, or £16, to be paid in cash ; half the third year's rent, or £32, to be expended in like manner, and the balance paid in cash. The fourth and future years' rents to be paid wholly in cash. Leases granted for twenty-one years to the first twenty families going out, after which no lease granted for a longer period than fourteen years.

"Tenants to be supplied with stores by the company on moderate terms. Seed-corn will be lent to tenants, to be repaid out of their first crop. Clover and grass-seeds will be supplied to tenants engaging to lay down lands to grass on the company's estates. Timber carriages, to assist in clearing away trees, will be lent gratis by the company to tenants of forest land," &c., &c.

The company's grants consist of 180,000 acres on the north-west coast, including the islands off the coast, in climate and soil resembling the west of England ; and 170,000 acres of the interior of the island, in climate and soil resembling the northern counties of England and the southern counties of Scotland.

The determination of the directors is to pursue tillage, with the view to artificial grasses, and to encourage the increase of the valuable imported flocks of sheep. The number of inhabitants and live stock on the company's lands, in 1838, was—Inhabitants, 164 ; horses, 186 ; deer, 11 ; cattle and working oxen, 1488 ; sheep, 6475 ; swine, 86.

This colony has of late years attracted consider-

able attention, and from its natural advantages, has risen into a very important commercial settlement ; but, according to the opinion of several writers on these colonies, it is not to be compared to New South Wales.

The Rev. Dr. Lang says—"It is now no longer necessary to institute comparisons between the colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, to induce intending emigrants to direct their course to the one of those colonies rather than to the other. The fact that during the last two years, there has been a very considerable emigration from Van Dieman's Land to New South Wales, inasmuch that more than 200 persons have actually crossed over from that island to the continent of New Holland, carrying along with them upwards of 30,000 sheep, with horses and cattle in proportion, and forming a settlement of squatters at Port Philip, in Bass's Straits, is surely decisive of this question, as far as intending emigrants are concerned.

"There is no article of agricultural produce raised in Van Dieman's Land that is not cultivated successfully in New South Wales ; but there are many articles that may be cultivated in New South Wales that can never be raised in Van Dieman's Land. Maize, an invaluable grain to the agriculturist, is not grown in Van Dieman's Land, and there are no vines nor orange groves in that island. The very timber that is used for joinery and cabinet work in Van Dieman's Land is imported from New South Wales.

"But the special advantage which New South Wales enjoys over Van Dieman's Land, is the illimitable extent of pasture land which it presents to the sheep-farmer, or the proprietor of cattle, in almost every direction. Van Dieman's Land is

but a small island, not quite so large as Ireland, and a great portion of its surface is absolutely uninhabitable. The continent of New Holland is as large as all Europe, and contains an extent of available land equal to the whole extent of the united territories of several European kingdoms. This is a circumstance of no small moment in countries which are chiefly valuable for their pastures, and the riches of which must consist principally in their flocks and herds; for Van Dieman's Land will, at no distant period, be overstocked with sheep and cattle."

Mr. Waugh thus speaks—"Van Dieman's Land, of which all the talk is at home, is a poor, miserable, expensive place, no more to be compared to New South Wales than Scotland is to England, as far as the natural fertility of the soil goes. Every one who has seen them joins in this opinion; but Van Dieman's Land being the place first touched at, the settlers there tell a parcel of lies about the place, and keep every one they can to themselves. One third of the people in this country first tried Van Dieman's Land for a settlement, and left it.

"Tell all who come away by no means to stop there—they spend their money, and come hopping up here in a week or two penniless, or next door to it. The thing stands to reason, that a comparatively poor and ill occupied country never can compare to a place where, if all the population of Scotland together were to come out at once, they would be located on rich land ready for their ploughing, or at all events, grazing, and then have room for all the population of England and Ireland to come next year and do the same."

Lieutenant Breton, after giving the price of provisions in the two colonies, remarks—"From this it will easily be perceived how much cheaper the

necessaries of life are in Sydney ; and house-rent is also higher in Hobart Town, so is the expense of living very far greater.

"I know not how to account for there being such a difference between the two capitals in regard to affluence ; the settlers in Tasmania, speaking generally, seem to have gone on quite as well as those in Australia ; yet there is no comparison between the (*apparent*) fortunes of many of the inhabitants of Sydney and of those of Hobart Town. Even making every possible allowance for the superior opportunities of realising money which the merchants and tradespeople of the former have enjoyed, it is still surprising that the disparity should be so very considerable. It is seen in everything—style of living, equipages, and buildings.

"Of all the variable climates, that of the district of Hobart Town is certainly the most changeable, the mutations being incessant. Heat, cold, rain, and sunshine succeed each other with a rapidity I never observed in any other part of the world. In winter, these alternations, with the addition of hail and snow, follow each other with equal celerity.

"On the *north* side of the island the snow was of considerable depth, and many days before it dissolved ; but why the cold should be greater there than on the *south* side, is rather inexplicable.

"Although the climate of the northern part of Van Dieman's Land is most delightfully salubrious, that of Hobart Town, from its immediate vicinity to Mount Wellington—on which every cold blast from the South Pole seems to stop for fresh orders on its journey to the southward—is much more subject to those frequent and violent transitions from summer heat to extreme cold, which are more productive of rheumatisms and toothache than any part of New South Wales."

“Although Van Dieman's Land is undoubtedly greatly superior, in regard to its climate and productions, to any of the North American colonies for a respectable family of small capital to settle in, and though it is pleasant to bear testimony to its prosperity and advancement, yet nothing is advanced here beyond the truth, when it is asserted, that New South Wales holds out a much better prospect to the intending emigrant of moderate capital, the future proprietor of sheep and cattle, if not also to the practical agriculturist, or the cultivator of the soil.”—*Butler*.

Mr. James, a recent writer on these colonies, says—“However preferable this island may be in many respects, the opportunities are almost gone by for making money here by the usual pursuits of grazing and agriculture. Land is too dear either to purchase or to rent, except in a few situations; and a young man with a little capital will be able to do much better with it, at Port Philip than in any part of Van Dieman's Land, every thing connected with stock and land having arrived at such a high price, that the advantages formerly offered to emigrants, with a small capital, going out to Van Dieman's Land to become farmers no longer exist.”

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

OR,

SWAN RIVER.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, lying between the parallels of 31 deg. and 35 deg. 8 min. south latitude, and the meridian of 115 deg. and 125 min. east. It comprises a fine extent of territory, 1280 miles long from north to south, and 800 miles broad from east to west. The distinguishing features are three distinct parallel ranges of primitive mountains, bordering on the sea-coast, in a north and south direction. The highest and most easterly has its termination near King George's Sound, in 35 deg. south latitude, and 118 deg. east longitude; the second, called the Darling Range, passes behind the Swan River, and meets the sea at Cape Chatham in 34 deg. 40' min. south latitude, and 115 deg. 20 min. east longitude; the thin ridge, which is inferior in altitude and extent, has its southern boundary at Cape Leuwin, in 34 deg. 20 min. south latitude, and 115 deg. east longitude, disappearing at Cape Naturaliste, in the same meridian, in 33 deg. 30 min. south latitude, and on showing itself again at Moresby's Flat-topped Range, about half way between Swan River and Shark's Bay, or about 300 miles northward of Cape Leu-

On these dividing ranges of mountains rise several rivers, which flow east or west, according to the dip of the land on either side. The principal rivers on the sea-shore being the Swan, Canning, Murray, Collie, Preston, and a small stream flowing into Port Leschenault, the Blackwood, disemboguing into Flinder's Bay; the Denmark, Kent, Hay, and Steeman, on the south coast; and King's River, falling into King George's Sound. On each of these rivers settlements have been formed. The town of Freemantle has been founded at the entrance of the Swan River; Perth, the seat of government, about nine miles inland, on its northern bank, and Guilford about seven miles further east, at the junction of the stream. Fifty miles east of Guilford is the town of York. Augusta was founded at Blackwood's River, near Cape Leuwin; and King George's Sound, with the town of Albany, has been recently attached to the Swan River colony.

The voyage from England to Western Australia may be performed in about a month less than the voyage to New South Wales, and the homeward route, instead of being by the way of Cape Horn, is in the opposite direction, by the Cape of Good Hope. The nearest islands in the Malay archipelago are at the distance of two days' sail from the northern ports of this colony. Passages to Madras have been effected in twenty-five days, and to the Isle of France and China in proportionately short periods. For the purposes of commercial intercourse with the countries above mentioned, whether by steam or by sailing vessels, the position of Western Australia is highly advantageous. In maritime warfare, the importance of a coast which borders the Indian Ocean for 2000 miles may be easily estimated; nor is its value in

peace unimportant, when it is considered how much the position which it occupies may influence the navigation of the neighbouring seas.

It had long been wished that the southern coast of Australia should be occupied by Great Britain; the fine colony we had succeeded in establishing on the eastern coast, under the most adverse circumstances, was a stimulus to the undertaking; and the favourable report of Captain Stirling, R.N., (who explored the coast in his Majesty's ship, "Success," in 1829), to a proposition on the part of Thomas Peel, Esq., Sir Francis Vincent, E. W. Schenley, T. P. Macqucen, Esqrs., and several other gentlemen, to further the views of government in founding a settlement, at little or no expense to the mother country. These gentlemen offered to provide shipping to carry 10,000 British subjects (within four years) from the United Kingdom to the Swan River, to find them in provisions, and every other necessary, and to have three small vessels running to and from Sydney, as occasion might require. They estimated the cost of conveying the emigrants at £30 per head, making a total of £300,000; and they required in return that an equivalent should be granted them in land equal to that amount, and at the rate of 1s. 6d. per acre, making four million acres; out of which they engaged to provide every male emigrant with no less than 200 acres of land, free of rent.

This proposition was not agreed to by the government, and a project for the formation of a new colony was issued from the Colonial Office in 1829. It was not to be a penal settlement; neither did the government intend to incur any expense in conveying settlers to the new colony, nor supply

them with provisions or other necessities after their arrival there.

The project was, that such persons as were to arrive in the settlement, before the end of the year 1838, were to receive, in the order of their arrival, allotments of land, free of quit-rent, proportioned to the amount of capital they were prepared to invest in the improvement of land, and of which capital they were to produce satisfactory proofs to the Lieutenant-Governor, at the rate of forty acres for every £3 they were prepared so to invest.

Those who incurred the expense of taking labouring persons were to be entitled to an allotment of land, at the rate of £15, that is, of 200 acres, for the passage of every such labouring person, over and above any other investment of capital. In the class of labouring classes were included women and children above ten years old. With respect to the children of labouring people under that age, it was proposed to allow forty acres for every such child above three years old; eighty acres for every such child above six years old; and 120 acres for every such child above nine and under ten years old. The title of the land was not to be granted in fee-simple, until the settlers had proved, to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor, that the sum required (1s. 6d. per acre) had been actually expended in some improvement, or in the cultivation of the land, or in solid improvements, such as buildings, roads, or other works of that kind.

Any land thus allotted, of which a fair proportion, at least one-fourth, should not have been brought into cultivation, or otherwise improved, to the satisfaction of the local government, within three years of the date of license of reception, was to be liable to one further payment of 6d. per acre for all the land not so cultivated or improved, into

the public chest of the settlement; and, at the expiration of seven years more, so much of the whole grant as should remain in an uncultivated or unimproved state was to revert absolutely to the Crown. And in every grant there was to be contained a condition that, at any time within ten years from the date thereof, the government might resume, without compensation, any land not then actually cultivated or improved, as before mentioned, which might be required for roads, canals, quays, or for the site of public buildings. After the year 1830, land was to be disposed of to those settlers who might resort to the colony, on such conditions as his Majesty's government might determine.

Captain Stirling was appointed Lieutenant-Governor, with a grant of 100,000 acres; and Mr. Peel was to receive 250,000 acres, on condition of taking out 400 emigrants, with liberty to extend the grant to 6,000,000 acres, previous to the year 1840, by receiving forty acres for every child above three years old, eighty for every child above six, up to ten; 120 acres, and exceeding that age, 200 acres, for every person conveyed to the colony. Mr. Peel had complied with the terms requisite for 500,000 acres previous to 1836.

Under these circumstances, early in 1829, a number of settlers left England for Swan River, where they began to arrive in the month of August, and to locate themselves along the banks of the Swan and Canning Rivers, so that, by the end of that year, there were in the new colony 850 residents, and 440 non-residents; value of property giving claims to grants of land, £41,550; number of acres actually allotted, 525,000; number of locations effected, 39; cattle 204; horses, 57; sheep, 1096; pigs, 106; and no fewer than twenty-

five ships had arrived at the settlement before the end of December.

Such was the commencement of the British colony of Western Australia. As was to have been expected the settlers met with unexpected difficulties, and great hardships had to be surmounted; the land near the coast, as is generally the case in New Holland, was found poor and sandy; but those who had sufficient enterprise to find out the real resources of the country, by penetrating into the interior, discovered numerous fine tracts of pastoral and agricultural land.

As a specimen of what the first settlers had to encounter, we will make a few extracts from a "Narrative of a Voyage to the Swan River," &c. Here are the author's own words, on the vessel approaching land:—"And what did they (the emigrants) see? A fine river, the verdant banks of which refreshed their gaze? No. Sand in every direction, as far as the eye could reach—a brilliant white sand, which the children called snow, and wondered why the trees were green." The settlers were landed at Freemantle, where they pitched tents till exploring parties searched for land, which, during the author's stay, was nowhere to be found worth the locating. The sufferings experienced grew daily more distressing; but "the greatest annoyance was from the sand; the burnt wood of the surrounding fires mixing with it, not only filled the shoes, but covered the person with a disagreeable black dirty dust." The following graphic account is given of a settler's family—

"The party consisted of a gentleman, with his wife and six children, from two to fourteen years of age, with an establishment of a young woman, as their own immediate attendant, a practical far-

mer and his wife, two labouring men, and a boy. To how many thousand acres of land his property entitled him, I know not, but his grant was to be on an extensive scale. He had been lured by the tempting bait of providing a fine estate for his children, to collect his property, and leave his English home. His conduct needs no other comment than that which the mania of the Swan River settlement at the time occasioned.

"In the wood before mentioned, as near his companions of the voyage as possible, he selected a spot, rendered convenient by the natural arrangement of the trees, and threw up his temporary abode. It consisted of a large tent or canvass covering, sufficient for himself, wife, and children, and at a short distance, a smaller tent for his servants.

"Round his own dwelling was ranged his property, consisting of every convenience for settling comfortably on his new and extensive estate. Packing-cases of all sizes contained the following articles, namely, two wooden houses, one of four, and one of twelve rooms, furniture of every description for both of them; dairy utensils, farming implements, trees, plants, and seeds; a variety of preserved provisions, biscuit, and flour; fodder for his cattle; and sufficient linen and clothing for the whole party for two years. I must not omit the addition of a good sized plate-chest.

"This detail will give some idea of the barricade around him. An opening was left for an entrance, over which two fine dogs kept watch, whilst he and his family reposed on beds on the ground under the same canvass roof.

"His horses and carts had been of the greatest service in bringing his heavy property over the sand, but his pretty new carriage stood unused, as

a memento of the little to be learned in England of the necessities required in the first formation of a colony. Many of his cattle and sheep had strayed away, and for those which remained, not a blade of grass was to be found.

“With respect to water, the family were much inconvenienced for the first days after their arrival, but a well was soon sunk to supply the whole encampment; those used by former settlers in the wood had been filled in. This well was dug as near the dwelling as possible; but, nevertheless, it was toilsome to fetch the water over the sand under such a sun.

“The settler’s establishment thus arranged, his next consideration was to feed the party as economically as possible, so as not to encroach too much on the store of provisions. Fresh meat was dear, and not very good, for cattle and sheep were too precious to be killed, unless it was found that they were famishing for want of herbage. Salted provisions, therefore, became their almost constant food, which rendered the want of milk and vegetables the more distressing. The latter privation was a great and daily source of complaint, and many were the hints and reproaches thrown out against the first settlers who had arrived there before them, for not having planted and sown seeds around their temporary locations.

“Those who made observations of this kind were, by fatal experience, soon taught their error; the facility with which water was obtained afforded the first instance. It was asserted that a well might be dug with hands only; certain it is, that, by scratching away the sand, springs appeared almost immediately below the surface in every direction. This it was which had destroyed the gardens; several had been formed on different parts; plants

had sprung up, looked green, but died off, rotten at the root.

The settler having forwarded an estimate of his property to the Governor, his next step was to present himself to his Excellency, to receive a specification of his grant of land. The Governor's residence was at Perth, the capital of the Swan River establishment, sixteen miles distant from Freemantle. Hither he arranged to go by water, calculating on an absence of three days from his family, allowing one day for going, one for an interview with his Excellency, and the third for returning. He arrived at Perth, and arranged every thing according to his wishes, but it was not till the fourth day that he landed at Freemantle, detained by the uncertainty of the wind and tide of the river. One boat was three days in returning only; coasting, landing, and again renewing the attempt.

"To examine the specified grant was the settler's next step, which was more or less difficult to accomplish, according to the extent of its distance from other located spots. His horse and cart could not pass over such ground as he had to traverse, so that all the necessaries he required for food and rest had to be carried by himself, there being no human habitations on the road.

"The anxiety felt by his family during his absence may naturally be imagined; and on his return from his perilous expedition he was joyfully greeted by all. The grant he had visited he did not approve, and, therefore, he did not accept, thinking it better to wait till good land could be found, than to settle on that which would not yield him a sufficient produce to recompense him for his labour.

"I shall never forget paying a visit to his tent

one morning, a little before eight o'clock. The family were seated at breakfast; a clear space on one side had been newly strewn with green rushes to cover the sand; in the centre was placed the table, which, as they had unpacked sufficient for immediate use, was laid with a clean white cloth, and the usual comforts of the morning repast. The mother, who in England had ever been accustomed to a good establishment of servants, had risen at six o'clock, and prepared the cakes before them. She was making tea, nicely dressed, her large straw bonnet, lined with green, shading her from the sun. The children sat orderly around, looking beautifully neat and clean; I need not say that the husband's eyes beamed with delight—they could not do otherwise—although they were occasionally clouded by melancholy forebodings. The picture was enchanting, but it could not last, and, like all earthly happiness its brilliancy was soon to be overcast by a temporary gloom. The noon repast again brought them together, but the father was wearied by a fruitless search after strayed cattle, and the whole party were more or less covered with a black sand, the sight of which could scarcely be borne, although it was almost useless to remove it.

“As our stay drew towards a close, we each felt an increasing interest and anxiety as to the welfare and success of those to be left behind. During the whole of our seven weeks' residence there, we had invariably fine weather, until two nights before our departure, when a heavy shower poured down in torrents, giving us some idea of the sufferings to which the first settlers there, before us, had been exposed during the rainy season. Canvass was not proof against such a powerful torrent; and the family I have described, not having quite completed their arrangements for removal, sheltered them-

selves under umbrellas within the tent, putting the children under the tables!" Such are a few of the inconveniences that may be expected in the settling of most new colonies.

It appears from King's surveys, that the coast of the colony within the tropics is fronted with indentations, bays, straits, and islands, and abounds in the finest harbours imaginable. The rise and fall of tide in some places amounts to thirty-five feet, affording opportunities thereby for building docks, or for laying ships on shore, without considerable expense. The existence of an interior sea, or of great rivers, connected with some of the inlets which were not fully explored by King, remains a problem as yet undetermined. Although the nature of the country on that coast is but little known, there is reason to believe that portions of it suitable to cultivation may be found. It possesses one peculiarity in point of seasons, of considerable value, and that is the occurrence of the boisterous westerly monsoon, accompanied by clouds and rain, at the hottest period of the year, from November to March.

The principal ports in the south-western parts of the colony are those in Cockburn Sound, and in King George's Sound. The first of these is an excellent port, but its entrance is encumbered by rocks, and it is not accessible with safety to large vessels, while there is not an effective establishment of pilots and beacons. King George's Sound possesses all the qualities which constitute a good harbour. Its position, however, being to eastward and to leeward of Cape Seuwin, in the vicinity of which strong westerly gales prevail, this circumstance detracts from the value of its other qualifications. Shark's Bay abounds in safe anchorages, and affords, as well as Doubtful Island Bay, secure ac-

cess to the districts in their immediate vicinity. Harbours for boats and small coasting vessels exist near the entrance of Peel's Inlet, Port Leschenault, Augusta, Nornalup, Torbay, Collingwood Bay, and Cape Riche.

One of the most remarkable peculiarities on the south-western coast of the settlement is the frequent occurrence of estuaries or inlets of the sea, having narrow and shallow entrances. Between King George's Sound and Swan River there are no fewer than ten of these. They are usually from five to ten miles in length, and from two to three in breadth. They serve as the receptacles of the streams in their vicinity, and will afford hereafter water communication to the inhabitants. In the summer season the water in them is salt, but becomes fresh after the return of the rains.

In the interior no lakes of any extent have, as yet, been discovered; but salt marshes and salt pools of small diameter, are not unfrequent.

The absence of considerable mountain ranges forbids the chance of finding any considerable rivers of a permanent character; and it is somewhat remarkable that one of the largest rivers known, whose course is not less than 200 miles, disappears entirely as a stream, and ceases to run long before the end of the dry season. In the country situated to the south of the Swan River, there are, however, streams which continue to run throughout the year, as may be instanced in the cases of the Murray, Harvey, Brunswick, Preston, Capel, and Donnelly; and on the south coast, where the country is more hilly, and the rains later, mill-streams exist in great numbers, and fortunately those districts contain an inexhaustible supply of the finest timber. The chance of discovering a river of great magnitude on the north-west coast appears to be

strengthened by the non-occurrence of any considerable stream in those other parts which have as yet been explored.

The supply of water for domestic purposes in all those districts, which have been occupied, appears to be sufficient. In the district of York inconvenience has been found on some farms from the difficulty of finding water at first, but these inconveniences have been usually overcome by the discovery of springs on further inspection. The country at the distance of one hundred miles from the western coast does not appear to enjoy its share of the rain brought in by the westerly winds, and it is to be apprehended that a deficiency of a supply of water during the dry season will be found in that quarter when it comes to be settled.

The wet season commences with light showers in April, which continue to increase in number and force throughout May, June, and July, and from that period to decrease till they cease altogether, in the month of November, when the dry weather begins. These two seasons, with an intermediate spring following the conclusion of each, embrace the circle of the year. It is usual to call the wet season the winter, and the dry season the summer, but neither of them has the character of the corresponding season in Europe. The extreme drought and heat of an Australian summer render it the less agreeable portion of the year; whilst the winter, with the exception of intervals of stormy weather, is only sufficiently cold to be pleasant.

The prevailing winds in the seas adjacent to Cape Seawin is from the westward throughout the year. On the coast, however, land and sea breezes take place with great regularity during the summer. In the winter season, gales of wind from the north-west and south-west are very frequent, and

are usually accompanied by heavy falls of rain. At such periods, the atmosphere is charged with moisture to a considerable degree, and the quantity of rain that has been ascertained to fall at King George's Sound, in the course of six winter months, equals the quantity experienced in the western counties of England. The atmosphere in the summer season retains so little moisture, that none but hardy and fibrous plants can withstand the drought. The air is so clear, and the reflection of solar heat so great, that the thermometer occasionally reaches in the shade near the ground 105 degrees, but the effect at those times upon European constitutions is not injurious.

• This can only be accounted for, under so great a heat, by the peculiar dryness of the air, and the regular succession of cool nights after the warmest days. The experience of the last eight years has established in the minds of the colonists the full belief that the climate of the settlement is in a peculiar degree conducive to health and to comfort; but it is not equally so to the growth of those vegetable products which flourish to great advantage in moister climates. With reference to this point of difference between England and Western Australia, it is perhaps fortunate that it does not resemble the former country, but may rather be considered, in temperature, as a supplement to the southern districts of the United Kingdom, and as affording every range of temperature, between the Land's End and equatorial regions, for the production of commodities which cannot be raised in the colder atmosphere of the mother country.

The salubrity of the climate of Western Australia is abundantly testified both by the Colonial Surgeon and the Military Surgeon, and this under all the circumstances of exposure, a privation to

which many are necessarily subject in a new settlement. The only ailments mentioned, as in any degree incidental to the climate, are a slight inflammatory affection of the eyelids, on the part of those who sleep exposed to the night air; and a slight attack of bowel complaint, by those who neglect warm clothing in the change of the year, or who are addicted to intemperance. This salubrity is attributed to the peculiar dryness of the atmosphere, and its freedom from damp exhalations, noxious vapours, or unwholesome fogs. If this state of things was generally known, and the low per centage of deaths was duly considered, it would appear but reasonable that they should operate strongly in favour of those who desire to effect insurances upon their lives. It may be very important to state, that the application of vaccine matter has, after many failures, been attended with complete success; and vaccination may now be considered as established in Western Australia.

The whole occupied portion of the territory appears to rest on a granitic base; rocks of that description having been found to exist in every district which has been as yet explored. In the neighbourhood of Doubtful Island Bay, the granite assumes the stratified form of gneiss; and as red sandstone is found on the north-west coast, and tertiary formations on the shore of the Australian Bight, it is probable that the general dip of the country is in a direction a little to the north of east. To the south of the 31st degree of latitude there are no mountain ranges of any great altitude, the highest yet known being that of Koikveunneruf, near King George's Sound, which attains to the height of 3,500 feet. On the primitive base of the country none of the secondary formations have been found to exist. Basaltic rocks are not, how-

ever, unfrequent in almost every district in the country; and in one position, at Geographe Bay, there is a columnar formation, resembling in its character that which exists on the north coast of Ireland. The principal range of hills extends in a northerly direction from the south coast near Cape Chatham, for at least three hundred miles. The only varieties of rock which have been found on this granite range are occasional portions of roofing slate, and of indurated clay: but extending from the western base of these hills towards the sea, upon an average breadth of about twenty miles, there is a low and tolerably level plain of diluvial origin, which bears the marks of having been covered by the sea at some remote period. The portion of this plain nearest the sea presents limestone hills, which have a slight covering of meagre sandy soil. The remainder varies from sand to clay, with the exception of the lands in the immediate vicinity of rivers, which have been affected and rendered rich by the overflowing of the streams.

The mineral substances heretofore discovered, are lime, marl, selenite, slate, silicious and calcareous petrifications, magnetic iron-ore, peacock iron-ore, chromate of lead, crystals of quartz. The very small portion of the territory which has been inspected being almost entirely of a primitive description, a larger list of minerals could not be expected; but when time shall permit the further examination of the northern districts, of the red sandstone formation, it is not unlikely that mineralogical discoveries may be effected. The discovery of copper ore in the vicinity of Camden Bay, by Captain King, corroborates this expectation.

The surface of the country, generally, is covered

with those substances which are technically called earths, in contradistinction to soils. Of the latter, as far at least as relates to those of a vegetable origin, a very small portion exists, and that only on moist grounds. The extreme drought of the climate and the summer conflagrations appear to prevent the growth of succulent plants, as well as any great accumulation of soil from decayed vegetation. But although the country is not remarkable for richness of soil, it is favourable in other respects to farming purposes. In its natural state, there is scarcely any part which does not produce some description of plant, and its defects seem to be of that class which art, aided by climate, will be enabled hereafter to overcome.

It is always difficult to form a just estimate of the value of soils in new countries, and it is hazardous to give opinions on which the settlers' operations may be founded. The reports and statements of the explorers must, therefore, be viewed with much caution, and as liable to error, even where every wish has been felt to observe closely and report truly.

Upon a general view of that portion of the territory which has been examined, it is but justice to state, that a large portion of its surface, extending probably to three-fifths of the whole, is poor and comparatively unprofitable, and unlikely to be cultivated or yield any return, except in timber, until a dense population and low wages, aided by abundance of cattle, shall enable the farmer to bring it into use.

The best districts at present known are those on the Avon, the Hotham, the Williams, Arthur, Beaufort, and South East Rivers; together with the portions of country adjacent to the Swan, the

Murray, the Harvey, Brunswick, Preston, Capel, and Vasse.

It is to be remembered, however, that these remarks apply only to the very small part of this vast country which has been as yet explored, and that in the progress of the settlement circumstances are continually arising to give value to lands, which, while wages are high, and roads wanting, are not of the slightest value.

The following towns have been laid out and allotments granted:—Freemantle, Perth, Guildford, Albany, Augusta, Kelmescott, York, Peel-town, Busselton, and Kingstown.

In this part of New Holland the food of the natives embraces a great variety of articles. In the estuaries and the rivers, and on the coast there is abundance of fish at certain periods of the year; and kangaroo of various sorts, together with opossums, dalgerts, and other small animals are obtained in considerable numbers; roots and gums of several kinds are also used by them, and birds' eggs, lizards, frogs, grubs, and cray fish from the swamps are also resorted to as varieties, or used in cases of urgent want. They do not appear to be reduced at any time to any great difficulties in procuring subsistence, but their habits preclude the possibility of keeping any accumulated stock of the necessary articles, and therefore their time and attention are almost constantly occupied in the pursuit of their daily food.

As the natives have no fixed habitation, and do not practice any art tending to increase the supply which nature has provided, it is probable that their numbers are strictly limited by this circumstance, and that they have been long stationary at their present amount.

The law which forbids any further increase, is

the cause, moreover, of their dispersion throughout the territory, and prevents them from entering into any larger confederacies than those which are necessary for rendering most successful their hunting and fishing occupations. The tribes, as they are called, usually comprise about 120 persons, of all ages, and of both sexes. These are connected for the most part by relationship of blood, although it is by no means uncommon to procure wives, or to adopt strangers from neighbouring tribes. The only species of control or government under which they live is founded on the influence of the strong over the weak, and the deference which is shown to the aged, and to the pretended powers of the magician or doctor.

Certain usages established by custom are frequently appealed to as rules of conduct. Of these the principal relate to the right of individuals to certain portions of hunting-ground, derived by inheritance from their ancestors, to the practice of boring the cartilage of the nose of the young men on their admission to the rights of manhood, and to the retaliation for injuries received, which all are enjoined, as well as intitled to seek, whether the offender belong to the same or to a neighbouring community. It has been found very difficult to ascertain the exact locality or tribe to which individuals belong, in consequence of alliances which are very frequent amongst individuals of different tribes. This species of brotherhood, by adoption, carries with it the obligation of becoming parties to each other's quarrels, and although it appears to be followed by the advantage of mutual protection, as far as such individuals are concerned, it gives rise at the same time to many hostilities. The intercourse between tribes is seldom of a friendly character, but it is remarkable

that their conflicts seldom extend to the loss of lives. Almost continually engaged as they are, in feuds arising out of the invasion of each other's territory, or the abduction of each other's women, it might be expected that when they meet to fight, the weaker party would be exterminated; whereas these contests, after a great deal of clamour and a few unimportant wounds, generally end in the murder of a child, or of a female, by mutual consent admitted as an atonement for the offence or ground of quarrel. Independent of these occasional warlike meetings of tribes, almost every native is under an engagement to avenge, at a convenient opportunity, the death of some departed friend, or an insult previously offered to himself. This purpose, which he cannot forego without discredit, gives rise to acts of the greatest treachery, and not unfrequently ends in the surprise and sudden death of some individual belonging to the same tribe with the avenger, or some of his neighbours. They rarely, therefore, sleep a second night at the same place; the spear seldom quits the hand of the man from boyhood till death; and they become accustomed to witness, endure, and practise the greatest outrages.

The personal qualities of some members of this peculiar race are superior to the condition in which they live. A few of them are remarkable for symmetry of form and countenance, and the natural intelligence of many appears to be in the highest degree acute; the greater part, however, are, from hardship of life and bodily injuries, disgusting specimens of the human race, and deformity of old age, whether in the men or women, is usually accompanied by a concentration of all the vicious propensities to which their usages give rise.

In their intercourse with the whites the natives

accommodate themselves with astonishing readiness to the language, the habits, and even the weaknesses of their new friends. They are remarkably cheerful, and make themselves useful in many employments; but they are not to be relied upon, for in a great many instances it has been found that, after living for months in the house of a settler, they have been all the time employed by the rest of the tribe as spies, for the purpose of conveying intelligence as to the best points of attack on life or property. Living in a constant state of warfare, they are bold, crafty, and persevering, and lay their plans with judgment equal to the vigour with which they put them into execution. With such qualities as these they would be too powerful as a nation for the present number of colonists, if it were not for their mistrust of each other. They cannot combine their efforts nor act on a concerted plan, for if they were to do so, there are many of them who would readily betray the rest, and voluntarily lead the whites to their retreat, for the sake of a few pounds of flour. It is impossible to give any accurate account of their numbers; 750 have been known to visit Perth from the districts surrounding it to the extent of forty miles each way. The nearest estimate of the population appears to be that which assigns ~~one~~ native to each portion of ground of two square miles.

The white population of Western Australia was, in 1834, 1510; in 1837, 2154; and in 1848, 4460, exhibiting an increase during ten years of 107 per cent.

Agricultural and pastoral pursuits are the leading occupations in this country; but the further extension of tillage is much impeded by the want of labourers, and the very high prices demanded

compel those who principally depend on hired workmen in rural occupations to seek the means of employing their capital in pursuits less dependent on the whims and caprices of the labouring class. In consequence of this, the raising of wheat is principally confined to those families, the numbers of which are sufficient for the work of the farm on which they live; and the higher class of settlers invest their capital chiefly in the rearing of stock. The adaptation of this country to wheat growing may be, however, considered as proved beyond a doubt, but this article cannot be profitably cultivated for exportation until there is a greater command of labour. The culture of the vine, fig, peach, and melon tribe, has been carried to a very considerable extent, and if ever it should be desirable for the mother country to possess a wine-growing colony, the soils and seasons of the country afford reasonable ground for anticipating a successful issue to such a speculation.

The return of profit on sheep-farming may be estimated, in the gross, at 75 per cent. per annum. The rate is undoubtedly higher, where the price of meat is high, and the value of land low, than it can be in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land. After deducting the herding, and allowing a reasonable rent for the land on which the flock is maintained, a net profit remains to the owner of at least 50 per cent. per annum. Such a profit, combined with the means of extending indefinitely the number of sheep-farms, must attract, in the course of a few years, to this branch of investment, a large amount of capital. At the present time, the absence of funds within the colony applicable to such purposes, and the prejudices which unjustly exist in respect of its capabilities, together with the mishaps attendant on the importation of sheep

from other places, impose obstacles to its extension, apart from natural increase.

Horses and cattle may be expected to multiply. Independent of those belonging to the settlers, there are known to exist four or five wild herds, in different parts of the colony, which have maintained themselves, without protection, against the natives for several years, and are rapidly increasing their numbers.

Looking to the small number of colonists, and to the few years they have been established in this country, the extent of land in cultivation, and the number of useful animals in their possession, are highly satisfactory. The settlement has been for some years enabled to feel that it has arrived at the point of producing its own subsistence, and is independent of other places for the support of its inhabitants.

The arts connected with building and agricultural implement making employ a considerable number of the workmen of the colony, and it is, in consequence, better provided with the products of the first named of those arts than is usual in countries so recently occupied. Many convenient and substantial houses have been erected in the towns, and by the employment thereby given to artizans, a large number have been induced to remain, who would otherwise have quitted the settlement. Carpenters, masons, plasterers, blacksmiths, painters, and other artizans have hitherto received high wages; but some of them are beginning to turn their thoughts to rural occupations. Being usually superior in education and in steadiness of conduct to the labourers in general, the class to which they belong is one of the most valuable in colonies, and therefore it is not to be regretted that a very large sum has been invested in buildings, by the outlay

of which they have been induced to settle in this country.

There are three corn-mills propelled by water, two wind-mills, and three horse-mills, situated at convenient distances for the settlers on the Swan and Canning Rivers, and in Perth, and capable of manufacturing into flour more corn than is at present grown, or than the colony requires. The charge for grinding, &c. is very high, from the circumstance of the mills not being fully employed, and the great cost of erecting and superintending such works in a new colony. Competition may be anticipated, from the recent arrival of a corn and saw-mill, with a powerful steam-engine. There is a horse-mill in the York district, and the erection of others contemplated.

Hand and horse thrashing-machines are used to a limited extent.

Three public breweries are established in Perth, and an extensive malting house on the Swan River. Distillery and wine-making have been attempted on a very limited scale, so that the colonists depend almost entirely on importation for their supplies of these articles, as well as candles, soap, and leather.

Brick earth is generally abundant, and bricks and lime of excellent quality are manufactured. The colonial shingles are a good substitute for slates, and nearly alike in appearance. The mechanics and artisans settled here are fully employed at higher wages than in England. The following branches of business are still open to enterprise, with every probability of success:—

Cultivation and manufacture of tobacco, and opium, and hops.

Flax and hemp, with linseed, castor and olive oil.

Wine, as the vine is now extensively cultivated.

Coarse woollens and hosiery.

Pottery and tile-making.

Quarrying.

Leather, parchment, and glue-making.

Agricultural mechanist and edge-tool makers.

Cabinet-making, with turning and French polishing.

The substance called china-clay is abundant in this colony.

Since the earliest discovery of this coast, it has been known to abound in various descriptions of fish. The Malays have carried on, for at least two hundred years, an extensive and profitable trepang and tortoise-shell fishery on the north-west coast. Dampier, Bandin, and King, at different periods, have reported the existence of astonishing numbers of whales in the adjacent seas, and experience, since the establishment of the colony, and still more recently, since whale fishing commenced in its bays, confirms the reports of the earliest navigators. This abundance of fish is probably connected with a bank which adjoins the shore from the northern to the southern extremity of the colony. On this shoal, which extends for thirty or forty miles from the land, and which is composed for the most part of calcareous or coralline substances, there exist several varieties of edible fish, which admit of being cured for exportation.

The various descriptions of fishing which may be carried on under such circumstances, must eventually employ a large amount of capital, and a great number of seamen. Markets for their produce are open in China as well as in Europe.

There are four whaling associations in Western Australia. These are not as yet upon an efficient footing, but their success has been great enough to insure their future improvement and extension.

Fishing, for the purposes of food, gives profitable employment to a few boatmen.

Boat-building is carried on with much success by two establishments, and some of the native woods are found to be well suited to those purposes. Mr. Trigg communicated his practical experience of the nature and quality of the indigenous timber of Western Australia to the local government, from which we make the following extracts :

“The Shea oak is not abundant, although in sufficient quantities for our own use for many years to come ; it is far preferable for shingles to any imported from Van Dieman's Land. As an evidence, the offices built by me for the government, and shingled with imported shingles, the latter end of 1829, and beginning of 1830, are completely destroyed by decay and white ant, whilst the room adjoining my workshop, shingled with native shingles shortly after, is as tight as a drum, and, according to all appearance, likely to continue so for many years to come. The mahogany growing about Perth is, generally speaking, dark, hard, and heavy. This is the sort Captain Freeman, contrary to my advice, took to England, and of course, failed in his speculation, being, I consider, the worst sample to be found, although, if well assorted, some of excellent quality for building can be obtained. As an evidence, I refer to the floor of the commissariat store, all of which was cut about two miles from Perth, out of the largest timber, the small being carefully avoided, on account of wasting. This floor was laid early in 1835, and there is not the least apparent shrinking, except in a few unseasoned boards, and when we consider its size (one hundred feet by forty), the great drought and heat of our summers, contrasted with the great moisture of winter, as also its nearness to the large

shingled roof, whilst a continual draught rushes through an unceiled room of fourteen feet pitch beneath, it is evident to me it possesses properties peculiarly adapting it for all purposes where contraction and expansion is an object. I argue from this, also, it is a wood of great durability. Some, as I have before hinted, is very light as to weight and colour; indeed, they are generally combined, and work remarkably well. This we generally use for sashes, doors, mouldings, cabinet-work, and for all purposes requiring strength with lightness. It is far preferable to the Sydney cedar, which I have used for the same purposes, possessing all its good qualities as to ease of conversion, being much stronger, much better in appearance, and differing but little in weight; but it is not alone for carpenter's, joiner's, and cabinet-work it is desirable, but also for boat-building, possessing all the pliability required therein; and, so far as my knowledge goes, together with all I can collect, it is seldom, if ever, touched by worms; at least, it has never been in our nine years' experience. There is a large flat, built for me eight years ago, planked with mahogany, not unfrequently lying for months under water, and not the least appearance of worms in it, and to show that we have them here as well as in other parts of the world, the piles of the Freemantle jetty, made from shipwrecked timber (oak), built some time after, are completely destroyed by these insects. The mahogany, therefore, may be considered valuable for other purposes than domestic; I mean for ship-building; and then the question would arise as to quantity, and here I think we must leave the Swan and Canning, and go to the dense forest of the mountains. Some time back, I examined the timber from Green Mount to Rushy Stream, and although

there is much valuable timber, beginning a little below Mahogany Creek, still I do not consider it thickly wooded until near the aforesaid stream, and there it is thick indeed, so much so, it would be no small difficulty to fell the trees clear of each other. This range, or belt of timber may be, as near as I can guess, four miles through, running parallel with the mountains, rather approaching the sea to the southward. If twenty miles north of the York Road, and 120 south, be taken, at which points the timber has been found the same (beyond which I have no account, although it probably ceases only with the yet undiscovered range of mountains, differing in quality only as it passes through the different degrees of latitude), I say, taking the *known length* to be 140 miles, by four the depth, and squaring by 640, the number of acres in a mile, gives 358,400 acres. I have somewhere read (years back) it requires seven acres of thickly wooded timber of English forest to build a line-of-battle ship (I write from memory alone); I will therefore say twenty of this, which will give twice the quantity of timber in cubical contents of any English forest land I have seen or heard of on the same area; it gives timber enough to build 17,920 line-of-battle ships, or twenty British navies, supposing cutters, brigs, &c. to require as much as the aforesaid ships. I have been led to these observations because it has been said it is not a good timber country. I cannot speak so positively as to the qualities of this timber, never having used any; but, from its appearance on the block, freeness of growth, and resemblance in grain, I think it equal to the finest samples of the Swan and Canning. Taking the average, the length may be sixty-five feet, many much longer, and, without a knot or branch in all that length;

they may be said to be monuments of Nature, for they are nearly equal in size all the way up. Some objection has been raised to our exporting the same, on account of the distance. I do not think it a serious objection, for under our great want of labour, and consequent expense of shipment, I should have no objection to be bound (were I inclined to go again into business) to ship any quantity over 300 loads, in four, six, and eight inch plank, from the farthest point of road, at the rate of £6. 10s. per load (fifty cubic feet), and in some places, I have no doubt, it could be shipped much cheaper. My observations respecting the gums, of which there are several sorts, must be more limited, not having that practical knowledge I have of the mahogany. The red may be used to advantage for plates, rails, and shingles; indeed, for shingles I think it will become an article of export, but being subject to gum-veins, it is not so desirable for boards or planks. I have thought it might be used for staves, if well assorted. The flooded or blue gum is rather a fine grained wood, and works well, but possessing no peculiar qualities, except, perhaps, for wheelwrights, working better than the white gum of Mount Eliza, which may be considered next in value to the mahogany. When seasoned it is very hard, wears smooth, and can be rather torn than split to pieces. It is valuable for millwrights, and I think it would be found valuable for sheaves of blocks. I have no doubt it would answer all the purposes to which *ligaum vitæ* is applied, and I suppose much cheaper, from its size and abundance. I sent a piece to the Isle of France, by Captain Pace, intended for the sheaves of the largest blocks; it was cut crossways to the proper thickness. They were satisfied as to the grain and quality, but could not keep it from

casting; nor do I wonder, being at a season when all the sap is in it, and converted without proper means being used to season the same. This tree grows to an enormous size and height to the southward. The tewart of the Vasse and Augusta is the same wood, from the sample I have seen, though more free in growth, perhaps, from the nature of the soil. I have no doubt it may be used for some purposes in shipbuilding, for keels, felsons, beams, or any purpose where great length and great strength are required, and weight is not so much an object; but I do not consider it good for planking, at least not equal to the mahogany, its gravity being much greater, and certainly not so good working. I have some lying by my saw-pit, thrown by as waste, which has been exposed to the sun of five summers, without injury, except from natural defects, and very partially touched with the white ants, although, at times, they may be said to swarm there. I am persuaded these insects will take every other wood before mahogany and this gum, and the reason I say so is, on examining the waste pieces of boards thrown from my workshop, deal was the first eaten, other imported woods, whether from England or the other colonies next, the banksia, wattle, and red gum of our colony next, the white gum very partially, and the mahogany still less, merely superficially, but never destroyed; indeed, I think there is some of the mahogany they will never touch until time has destroyed its properties."

The operations of the miller, baker, brewer, farmer, shoemaker, tailor, &c., are extending, and the community, although limited, suffers no serious inconvenience from the absence of any of the arts and trades which administer to the primary wants of man.

The number of persons exclusively engaged in the civil, judicial, clerical, and military branches of the public service, amounts to 160. In other public offices, independent of the government, such as printers, innkeepers, &c. there are employed about sixty. As this description of persons, however necessary their labours may be to the general welfare, do not contribute directly to the produce of commodities, their number, together with that of their families, must be deducted from the gross population, ~~for~~ comparing the productive classes with the products of labour.

The internal consumption of commodities having been of late years, in a great measure, limited to the products of the land, and the importation of foreign articles having decreased in proportion, the mercantile part of the community has had much reason to complain of the want of business in general. The traffic in tea, sugar, spirits, clothing, harness, ~~the~~ thenware, glass, and ammunition, has been carried on at very high prices, and with great profit. Traders being a class of persons whose capital is always available for any speculation which may offer, and colonial farmers being always in need of advances, the mercantile men of the community, possessed of means, have frequent opportunities of laying them out to advantage, either by monopolising particular commodities, or by giving credit at high interest; they have, therefore, had their full share of the general prosperity, even in the absence of any considerable demand for merchandise. They are now looking forward to an increase in the exports of the colony as the probable cause of the extension of business.

The question of establishing a bank in Western Australia became a subject of deep interest throughout the community, from an early period after the

foundation of the colony ; but it was apparent to those who were most competent to form a correct judgment, that so long as the settlement depended on foreign supplies for the principal articles of consumption, without the means of a corresponding export, it must be constantly drained of specie, and no permanent circulation of notes could be maintained. From the report drawn up by the Agricultural Society for the year 1836, it appeared that tillage and the rearing of live stock had then made such considerable progress that all the actual necessities of life for the existing population were produced within the colony ; consequently from that period foreign remittances would be limited to payments for such articles of manufacture, of comfort or of luxury, as might be imported ; to meet which, the bills drawn by the local government for the maintenance of the civil and military establishment, those drawn by private individuals from resources in Europe, and the small but annually increasing exportation of wool, oil, &c., were considered fully adequate.

This fortunate change in the circumstances of the colony, and the great inconvenience felt from the system of barter, which had been generally adopted, in consequence of the deficiency of the circulating medium, gave rise to the formation of the "Bank of Western Australia," comprising seventy-six proprietors, including a large majority of the most wealthy and influential individuals in the settlement, which was opened, as a bank of issue and deposit, on the 1st of June, 1837, the eighth anniversary of the foundation of the colony, with a nominal capital of £10,000.

The affairs of this bank are conducted by a board of seven directors, and a managing cashier, under their orders ; and it is so constituted as to

be capable of extension, according to the wants of the community, by increasing the number of shares from time to time. Its discounts are limited to bills not having more than three months to run, for which a charge is made at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum; but this rate may probably be lowered to 10 per cent. ere long, with mutual advantage to the public and the proprietors, from the increase of business it might be expected to give rise to. As an encouragement to the labouring classes, small deposits are received, on the principles of Savings-banks, on which an interest of 5 per cent. is allowed. Statements are published quarterly of the assets and liabilities of the bank.

The deposits have been so considerable, that it has not been found necessary to call for more than the first instalment, amounting to 25 per cent.; and from the ample security this bank affords, and the cautious manner in which its business has been hitherto transacted, it appears to possess the entire confidence of the public.

The advantages resulting from this establishment became immediately apparent; the vexatious system of barter, which had proved an intolerable evil, ceased in a short period, and a large amount of dormant capital was brought into activity; wages generally commenced to be paid in cash; the farmer disposed of his produce, without difficulty, at remunerating prices; mercantile operations were facilitated; and a degree of regularity in payments was introduced, much to the public advantage.

The result of the operations of the first year were very satisfactory, and indicated the increasing prosperity of the colony. At former periods, when foreign mails were despatched, and remittances

made for necessary importations, the specie in circulation was completely drained, and had bank-notes been in circulation at the time, they must necessarily have been presented for payment. But at present, no such effects are produced. The progress of grazing and tillage, with an increasing port, have caused an entire change in the commercial position of the colony. Experience has shown, that when considerable mercantile remittances have been made, no diminution in the circulation of notes have taken place, and the amount of deposits at the bank has been but slightly affected.

There is specie in the colony amounting to upwards of £25,000, principally the property of individuals who are waiting for opportunities to invest their capital in live stock, or in commercial speculations as cargoes may arrive. The coin in circulation is principally British gold and silver, with a portion of Spanish dollars and rupees; the former at 4s. 4d., and the latter at 1s. 8d. each.

As a matter of private speculation, the money invested in the bank is likely to yield a good return to the proprietors. The profits of the first half-year were absorbed by the necessary outfit; but the second half-year left a clear profit over the expenditure of $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which after setting aside one-fifth as an accumulating fund, according to rule, enabled the directors to declare a dividend of $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the paid up capital. This favourable state of things has continued ever since; a sure indication of the prosperity of the colony.

The bills of the Commissariat upon the Treasury, have been hitherto negotiated at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium, but the demand for them is gradually decreasing, and will cease entirely when the value of exports is equal to the value of goods

imported, unless an increase of population from without extends the demand for imported commodities. Private bills on England are usually subjected to a discount of five per cent., and this appears to be a reasonable charge, when there are no considerable remittances to be effected.

The aggregate value of property belonging to the colonists, in land granted at 1s. per acre, and in rural improvements, buildings, implements, clothes and furniture, value of crop and live stock, and in boats, vessels, and fishing gear, may be estimated, in the gross, at £350,000., producing, with the labour of the community, after deducting its subsistence, a clear annual accumulation of capital amounting to nearly £100,000.

A statement of the condition of the colonists, drawn up by Sir James Stirling, governor of the colony, shows that each colonist, on an average, possesses a considerable amount of property in land, buildings, and cultivation, that he realises in grain and the products of live stock, in return for his labours: that after providing for his own subsistence, he exports, in wool and oil, to the amount of £8: 19s. 2½d., and contributes to the local revenue the sum of £6. 2s. 3d. per annum; that the comparative mortality is very small, while the births and marriages are unusually numerous. In recapitulating these facts, it is not out of place to advert to certain rumours which have been assiduously propagated as to the failure of the attempt at colonisation in this quarter. So far is this from the truth, says Sir James, that it may be fairly asked, in what other colony are the colonists, on an average, in a more prosperous condition than in this? or in possession of larger means for future welfare?

After these remarks, it is unnecessary to go into

a detailed account of the condition of the settlers at large, as to food, clothing, and general comfort. Even those who have the smallest share in the aggregate wealth, or indeed no share at all, may attain to comparative affluence by their own labour, at the present rate of wages ; and it is undoubtedly in the power of the poorest individual, who is free from bodily infirmity, and from vicious propensities, to procure for himself in this country, by industry, not only the necessities of life, but future independence of labour.

That the climate is congenial to health as well as to enjoyment, there is as yet no reason to doubt. What its effect may be on the constitution and form of the European, there has scarcely been sufficient time to ascertain. The children born in the colony appear to be of very rapid growth, and are exempt from many of those diseases which afflict and destroy, in childhood, so many persons in more rigorous climates.

There are no churches in Western Australia, but Divine Service is performed, every Sunday, in the Court-house at Perth, by the colonial chaplain, who has a salary of £250. per annum, and an allowance of £50. per annum, in lieu of a parsonage house ; of dissenting places there are two—one at Perth, belonging to the Wesleyans ; and one at Guildford, under the patronage of the Western Australian Missionary Society. This society was formed in London, in 1835, for the purpose of promoting religion according to the rites of the Church of England. Their first minister, on his arrival, erected a chapel and school-house at Guildford, and commenced the formation of a farm, on the Swan River, where it is understood the society intend to collect natives with a view to their instruction and civilization.

The education of youth has not as yet been brought under any system of arrangement. There are two public schools, however, one at Perth, and one at Freemantle, the masters of which receive £50. per annum each from government; besides these there are several private schools throughout the settlement; one of which is kept by the colonial chaplain in Perth, for young gentlemen, the course of instruction in which comprises the entire range of classical education which is usually given in England. In connection with this school, and subject also to the superintendence of the colonial chaplain, a school is opened for instruction in the various branches of elementary education. There is a school for young ladies, and also a girls' school, at Perth.

The state of morality, with the exception of a tendency to the excessive use of spirituous liquors amongst certain individuals, is highly satisfactory. Civil actions have greatly decreased in number, notwithstanding the redress of injuries has been rendered much less expensive, in minor cases, by the reduction of fees.

The Agricultural Society had its beginning in the first year of the settlement. It comprises almost all the owners of land. Its members were admitted by ballot. The regular meetings take place on a fixed day in each quarter of the year, and are usually well attended. The society has promoted good conduct among farm servants, by giving distinctions and prizes to the best conducted and most efficient labourers, and in other respects it has tended, in a very considerable degree, to promote the customary objects of such institutions.

There are four fishing associations, for prosecuting the whale fishery on the coasts; the first at Freemantle, consisting of thirty members, sub-

scribing £50. each; the second, called the "Perth Fishing Company," is divided into sixty shares, at £15. each. The fishing ground of these two companies is near the entrance of the Swan River. The two other establishments occupy stations in Doubtful Island Bay, on the south coast. It is expected that the aggregate produce of these fisheries, in oil, whalebone, and seal skins, will annually increase.

There are published in the colony two weekly newspapers, independent of the "Government Gazette." The oldest of these has existed, under the name of the *Perth Gazette*, about twenty years. The other, under the title of the *Swan River Guardian*, commenced its publication about fourteen years ago, as the friend of the people and the corrector of abuses.

The local administration is provided for by the Royal Commission and instructions, and by the Act of Parliament, and an Order in Council, of the 1st. of November, 1830.

The legislative power conferred on the governor and the members of the legislative council has hitherto been exercised only in the adoption of certain Acts of Parliament of a general tendency, and in the passing of a few ordinances connected with matters of local interest. The state of the law in this colony is, therefore, as yet, in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the law of England, as far as it is applicable to the circumstances of this country. In the absence of every institution foreign to the practice of the mother country, as well as the non existence of foreign customs, language, and blood, in the settlement, it possesses an attraction for emigrants in a great degree peculiar to itself.

The annual cost of the civil, ecclesiastical, and

military departments in Western Australia amounts to about £23,000 ; the funds for paying which are drawn from the Commissariat chest, the Colonial chest, and parliamentary grants.

With regard to the public establishments of this colony, it is necessary to observe that the population is scattered over a wide extent of country. The causes of this dispersion were, in the first place, the annexation of the settlement of King George's Sound ; and, in the second place, the mode in which lands were granted to the colonists. Having power to select large grants in districts suitable to their views, the settlers naturally availed themselves of their freedom of choice, and lands being subject to forfeiture if not improved within a certain number of years, they have been impelled by the fear of losing them, to locate themselves upon their grants, however remote their position. This dispersion has been further increased by the nature of the country, in respect of its general inferiority of soil, or absence of water, in certain localities.

As all had equal reason to expect the protection and assistance of the government, it became necessary to form stations at many different points, by which the expenditure has been much increased ; and establishments which would have been sufficient for the wants of a much larger population, if confined within reasonable limits, have not sufficed for the wants of this colony, embracing, as it does, so many separate and distinct stations.

In the military department, a great increase of force is requisite for the protection of the colonists. Whatever may have been the views of the government, on the earlier formation of this settlement, the settlers consider themselves, by its declarations, entitled to be protected and secured in the quiet

enjoyment of the lands assigned to them, or bought by their outlay. Without this, they cannot fulfil the location duties, nor can they make any progress in the extension of the settlement. This protection of the white population is, moreover, necessary to the security of the aboriginal race. If not given, a constant state of warfare and violence, between the two races, must follow; and while the former is hindered in his progress towards the establishment of the country, the latter will be rendered vindictive and cruel in proportion to the injury which he receives from, and inflicts upon, the settler. To correct or prevent these evils, the only course which seems advisable is, to declare the present limitation of the settlement to be that territory which is included between the 31st degree of latitude and the south coast; and from the west coast to the meridian of Doubtful Island Bay. Within that district military stations should be formed at the following points:—

Head-quarters, Perth, commandant, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, and 30 non-commissioned officers and privates; the subaltern stations at the head of boat navigation on the Swan and Canning Rivers, 10 non-commissioned officers and privates at each station; at Pinjarra, the head of the navigation of the Murray, and at Peel's Inlet, 10 men each; head of navigation on the Collier, 1 captain, 20 men; Wellington or Leschenault, Wonnerup, and the Vasse, 30 men; Albany, and the subordinate stations, Kalbar, Nornalup Inlet, and Doubtful Island Bay, 1 captain, 4 subalterns, and 50 non-commissioned officers and privates; Williamsburgh, Kojenup, and Hotham, 40 men; Beverley, 1 subaltern, 10 men; York, 1 captain, 1 subaltern, 20 men; Toodyay, 1 subaltern, 10 men. Total, 1

major, 4 captains, 8 subalterns, and 260 rank and file.

The above-mentioned military stations were proposed by the governor with reference to the best lines of intercommunication for mutual support, and also with reference to the several districts in which lands have been given, and locations begun.

At each of the principal stations indicated, a government resident, or inspector of natives, would be required, having under him a small party of mounted constabulary, not exceeding four men. Around these posts settlers would congregate and form towns and villages, and would thereby tend to the cultivation and improvement of the surrounding country. By proper escorts, communication might be kept up, surveys might be extended, the mails transmitted, and the peace of the country be preserved.

The natives, instead of being aggressors on the lives and property of the colonists, would see the danger and impracticability of outrage, and learn to accommodate themselves to the instruction of the proper authorities in their advancement towards civilization, and the whole colony would be bound together in a chain of mutual support and combined effort. Having established these, no new posts, nor sub-detachments should be formed; nor would the administration of civil affairs, for some years, require a further extension. All persons residing at a distance from these stations would do so at their own risk, and would make their arrangements accordingly.

The building in Perth, for the accommodation of the public offices, is one of great value to the public service, combining under one roof all the different departments, inducing thereby regularity

in the despatch of business. Previous to the erection of this building, it was almost impossible to arrive at a systematic arrangement of papers, or to secure them effectually from loss or accident; the case is now different.

The principal prison of the colony is situated at Fremantle; but it will be necessary, before long, to construct a more suitable edifice for that purpose, at or near the seat of government. From the removal of the jail establishment at Perth, a considerable saving would accrue in the administration of justice, and the management of the prisoners would also be more immediately under the inspection of the higher authorities.

It can scarcely be said that any roads exist in this colony, although certain lines of communication have been improved, by clearing them of timber, by bridging the streams, and by establishing ferries in two places, on the broader parts of the Swan River. The management of roads is under the direction of two commissioners, viz., the surveyor-general and the advocate-general; and the funds available for this purpose are appropriated to the removal of those inconveniences which press most heavily upon the settlers; but neither the amount of these funds, nor the circumstances of the settlers, admit of the reduction of this branch of the service to a more systematic arrangement.

In 1832 the mode of disposing of crown lands by sale came into operation, and in 1834 the principle of sale was made applicable to town allotments. Since those periods the new system has been strictly adhered to, except in the settlement of claims which arose out of the former system of granting land. The actual value of unimproved lands disposable by private bargain, is from one shilling to two shillings and sixpence per acre.

A few sales have been made nevertheless, of crown land, at or above the established minimum price, five shillings per acre, but the price in these cases has been raised by some peculiarity in position, or by competition. There is little reason to hope that there will be any considerable sales of crown land effected, at the regulated price, for some years, but it has sustained a gradual increase in value up to the present time, and several grants have lately changed hands at rates of purchase that betoken an increasing desire to invest money in that species of property.

The principle of sale as laid down in the royal instructions appears to be beneficial, with the following exceptions:—

1st. The price established in this colony being the same as in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land where land has acquired, by time and outlay, a much higher value, is, comparatively speaking, too high here.

2nd. The practice of bringing all lands to public auction occasionally imposes hardship and disappointment on those applicants who have incurred, previous to the time of sale, the expense and trouble of searching for locations, which are sometimes bought by others, to the great loss of the original applicant. This evil may be remedied, no doubt, by adhering strictly to the practice of refusing all applications for land not previously surveyed, mapped, and offered for sale on the motion of the government; but this rule would occasion greater hardship than that complained of, unless an extension of surveying operations take place sufficient to meet any reasonable demand.

The third inconvenience arising out of the present land system gives rise to a greater complaint than the evil itself would seem to justify. It pro-

ceeds from the privilege conferred on officers to purchase land at public sales on account of certain sums remitted to them, in proportion to their rank and service. Sales of this description do not yield any local revenue, and yet they occasion local expenditure in surveys, &c. The officer can afford to bid higher prices than an individual who has to pay ready money, and persons of the latter class complain, in consequence, that this indulgence to naval and military officers is conferred at the expense of the colonists, and to their detriment, by bringing into the market competitors who can easily outbid them, and deprive them of all the most favourable purchases.

In the course of the year 1837, three additional sources of revenue were created, viz., postage of letters, fees leviable in the civil court, and freight for goods and passengers conveyed to and from the outports. The proceeds of these branches of income cannot be looked to as likely to yield any great return for some years yet to come; but in the gradual improvement of the fiscal institutions of the country, it had become necessary to discontinue the previous practice of appropriating as private emoluments the sums received for postage, and for fees in civil actions; and with reference to the accommodation granted to individuals in the absence of coasting vessels to convey themselves and their effects to and from the outstations, the local government found it necessary to burden this indulgence with some charge, both as an act of justice to the public, as well as of protection to an incipient coasting trade. The income derived from the last named source is of course only casual and temporary. The prospects of the colony in regard to future revenue are decidedly improving.

We have obtained a great part of the foregoing

account of Western Australia from the Statistical Report of Sir James Stirling, the governor of that colony. He concludes his Report with the following observations :—

“ At the outset of the colony, various circumstances concurred to create an interest in the undertaking, and to cause a considerable influx of people ; but the actual progress made in its formation for the first three or four years was by no means equal to its apparent growth and the increase in numbers. The face of the country near the sea was uninviting ; the losses consequent upon exposure to the weather, the want of experience in such adventures, and in many cases the want of means, gave rise in their several ways, to doubt and despondency. Very few engaged with spirit in their proper avocations, and many left, or talked of leaving, a place in which there was evidently much to be done and borne before success could be attained. In the meanwhile there was no returns coming in from the land, nor money to pay for imported articles. The necessaries of life were at enormous prices, and the funds of settlers were generally exhausted in their own support, instead of being applied to the advancement of their farms and business. The disappointments experienced within the colony affected its reputation in other places, and a stop was put for a time to further emigration. To complete the catalogue of difficulties, conflicts with the natives were continually occurring, and too often ended in the loss of property and life.

“ But distressing as these evils were, they prepared and strengthened the colonists for those exertions which necessity imposed upon them. A steadier view was taken of the objects to be gained, want produced frugality and labour ; the resources

of the colony were tried, and in time the subsistence of the settlers was raised within the settlement. Increasing means gave rise to confidence and to renewed exertion.

“The returns for the last two or three years afford satisfactory proofs of the steady advancement of the colony, although the scale on which colonisation has been attempted here is limited to very narrow bounds, and the whole affair is unimportant in number and in means. Its progress hereafter, at some rate or other, is an event which may be inferred from the success of the experiment up to the present time. I will not undertake to say that it will prosper and become important, but it is at the same time not unreasonable nor useless, with cautious adherence to experience of the past, to consider beforehand the probable state of things in the settlement a few years hence.

“The production of supplies for internal consumption, the growth of wool, the prosecution of fisheries, and the growth of cotton and sugar, are the leading objects to which attention will be given.

Prospects of the Settlement as to the Supply of Food.—With the exception of tea, sugar, soap and candles, glass and earthenware, tools and implements, clothing and furniture, there are no important articles of consumption necessary to the settler which may not be raised here. It is even probable that flour and meat, butter, cheese, colonial beer and spirits, wine, dried and green fruits, and a variety of excellent vegetables will soon be brought to market at low prices, and in such abundance as to accomplish all that is desirable, with reference to providing for the present or the future population.

• “The accomplishment of this point is the first and most important step in all new countries, for

when importation of necessaries is stopped, an accumulation of means within the settlement begins; the people, well fed and contented, invite their friends to join them, or fresh labourers are sent for, and animation is given to enterprise in other branches of industry. At the present moment, this point has been attained by the settlers in general, and it is not too much to expect that henceforward the subsistence of an increasing and widely extended population will be easily procurable from internal resources.

“Prospects of the Colony in regard to the growth of Wool.”—The number of sheep in the colony at the present time is 12,000. Their rate of increase is found to be, exclusive of the wethers and the proceeds of the wool, about 40 per cent, per annum, or they double their numbers in each period of two years. No obstacle is found at present to the extension of sheep-farming.

“Prospects of the Settlement as regards Fisheries.”—I am satisfied that the extension of this pursuit will be most rapid, for if the profitable nature of bay-fishing be considered, as well as the saving of expense, by employing in the seas adjacent to this colony smaller vessels than those usually fitted out from London, together with the advantage arising from the constancy of their employment in fishing, without the necessity of long voyages to and from their whaling ground, it may be estimated that the profits on capital so employed here will be one-third higher than on vessels sailing out of English ports. This advantage is of great importance at the present time, when the British whaler, loaded with an outfit exceeding by one-third that of the American ship, in consequence of taxation within the United Kingdom, has no chance of competing with foreigners in the markets of the continent or

China, and consequently four vessels out of five engaged at present in the South Sea Fisheries belong to America. The produce of the colonial fishing in the present season is expected to attain the value of £4,200, in oil, whale-bone and seal-skins.

Prospects of the Settlement in regard to the Production of Cotton and Sugar.—In my dispatch, No. 144, I had the honour to submit certain propositions connected with the growth of cotton and sugar in the northern regions of this colony, by means of free labour, to be procured from Hindostan, or the neighbouring islands in the Malay archipelago. It is unnecessary in this report to revert in detail to the operations and measures therein referred to, but in considering the prospects of the settlement, its peculiar adaptation to the future cultivation of these articles ought not to be overlooked.

“Experiments in these branches of industry are, however, beyond the means and the numbers of the colonists at present; but I venture to anticipate that the estimation of the colony in the eyes of the public will be gradually enhanced, the longer this peculiarity in its natural qualifications is considered and examined.

“Such being the not unreasonable prospects of the settlement, it is easy to point out those measures which will tend to their realization.

“Of these, the principal will be a gradual influx of people to participate in the enterprises to which the natural qualifications of the territory are shown to be suited. This influx must, however, arise out of private adventure, stimulated by success, and principally sustained by the profits made on those leading pursuits. The government cannot aid effectually in hastening the progress of the settlement in these branches of industry, but it may pro-

tect the settler from injury, by effective public establishments, until the community be rich enough to provide for its own protection. This the settlement may be fairly expected to accomplish in a few years, if the aid hitherto given, and still required, be not too soon withdrawn."

There are various opinions, however, regarding Western Australia as a field for emigration. Lieutenant Brereton thus describes the appearance of this settlement:—

"We arrived at Swan River, and it may be imagined how much our curiosity was excited to see, with our own eyes, a spot of which such a variety of accounts had been published.

"This place was known to the French long before the English thought of colonising it; but they seem to have entertained no very high opinion of its beauties or capabilities. The coast, to some distance on each side of the entrance to the river, has a most wretched appearance, nothing being visible save barren rocks or a sandy beach, with a dreary-looking country beyond; in short, a more inhospitable spot is rarely to be found; and a vessel driven upon the rocks formed an object which did not conduce to animate the scene.

"Freemantle, at the time of my arrival, was a mere encampment, every person being either in a tent or temporary hut. Its site is a level spot, consisting entirely of sand, and the 'bush,' or forest, extends to within a very short distance of it. Water was easily procured by digging holes a few feet in depth, but it was not particularly good, and that which we took on board at our departure was not drinkable. I understood, however, that a plentiful supply has been found since, and of a good description. The only spring near

the place was about a mile distant, and it fell into the river only a few yards from its source.

“If the site of Fremantle alone be considered, a worse spot for a town could hardly have been selected. Situated as it is upon a bed of sand, and exposed to a glare that is almost insupportable, it holds out but little inducement for any person to fix his residence there, unless compelled by circumstances.

“It was not a little curious to observe the incipient town during the first few months after its commencement. Tents and huts in every variety—goods of all descriptions scattered about in disorder—the emigrants employed, some in cooking their provisions, and others in sauntering about, or landing their effects—many looking very miserable, and not a few equally happy—different kinds of animals just landed, and showing evidently how much they must have suffered during so long a voyage. Such was the scene I witnessed on landing at the spot on which the future principal seaport of Western Australia was to stand.

“At the entrance of the Swan, which is close to Fremantle, there is a bar, on which the depth of water does not exceed six or seven feet, and often, even when the wind is moderate, the passage over it is not a little hazardous. From thence to Perth the distance is about nine miles; and the navigation is rather impeded by shoals, which in some places extend nearly across the river.”

“On approaching the township, one part of the river forms a lake several miles in extent, which would make a fine harbour, if a canal could be cut so as to admit large vessels. Its shores are rocky, and generally useless to the agriculturist. Perth, the intended capital, stands on a rising spot, covered, when I was there, with trees, in the midst of which

the settlers had pitched their tents, or erected their huts; and the situation is not only well chosen, but affords some highly interesting views. The river at this part is about half a mile wide, or rather more, but it is so shallow that it may sometimes be forded.

“A mile or two above Perth there are several islands; and the river at this spot was so shallow, that we were obliged to get out of our boat, and drag or lift it through the mud for some distance; after which we found ourselves in deep water, and it soon became fresh.

“From this part of the river, to a distance, (as well as we could judge,) of twenty-five or thirty miles above Perth,—that is to say, as far as we could proceed in a boat,—the scenery was frequently of a beautiful description, and the banks in many places were composed of a rich alluvial soil, covered with excellent grass. Unfortunately the good soil was rarely found to extend more than half a mile from the river, and often not more than fifty or a hundred yards. The land, to a greater distance, may be capable of cultivation; but we lost sight of the black mould, and observed beyond it, sand and ironstone.

“In some parts the country was thickly covered with forest; but in others it had the appearance of a fine park, in which scarcely a tree was to be seen that one would think it necessary to destroy.

“It has been confidently asserted that the land is generally so scantily wooded that there are not more than two trees to the acre! Nothing can be more absurd: for it is only here and there that such is the case, the country being more commonly what is denominated ‘open forest,’ with spots where the trees are very close together.

“We made a point of landing wherever we per-

ceived an indication of good land, and frequently discovered the holes which had been dug by those who had preceded us, in order to ascertain the nature of the soil, and saw at once the cause why some persons had been so grossly deceived. Instead of proceeding in a direct line *from* the river, they had, in consequence of their ignorance of its course, passed partly across an elbow, or bend, formed by it, without being aware that they were all the time not far from its banks; so that they were led to believe the black mould extended several miles *from*, instead of *along* it.

“The Canning falls into the Swan a little below Perth, on the opposite side; and in most of its features resembles that river, but it is smaller.

“One party ascended the stream as far as the fallen trees permitted, which was not more, I think, than fifteen or sixteen miles from its confluence with the Swan. Its banks are highly picturesque—often romantic; and it struck me that there was rather a larger proportion of good soil than on the last named river; but even on the Canning, it extends not farther than from half to three quarters of a mile, and very seldom so far.

“Between Perth and Freemantle, the land, in an agricultural point of view, is almost worthless, if we except a few small spots; the greater portion of it consisting of sand, or sandstone, covered with trees and underwood.

“The base of the Darling range approaches to within a few miles of Perth; but the declivities of these hills had not the appearance of being particularly abrupt; and their elevation is considered to be only about 1,200 feet, which I am inclined to believe is somewhat underrated. Their aspect is triste and displeasing. How far inland the range extends is not known; but some officers had gone

up the Canning as far as they could in a boat, and then walked, according to their statement, upwards of forty miles, when, seeing no apparent termination to the range, and their provisions being well nigh exhausted, they were obliged to retrace their steps.

"They said (and there is every reason for believing their information to be correct) that the soil was bad or indifferent, excepting sometimes at the bottom of a valley or ravine; nor did they see much land adapted even for the purposes of grazing: indeed, their account of the interior was far from cheering.

"On the Canning we fell in with twenty-one of the aborigines—a greater number than had been previously seen in a body. They were of good height, straight limbed, very slightly made, and appeared to be extremely active. As though they were not naturally sufficiently ugly, many of them had thrust a feather, a bone, or a piece of wood through the *septum* of the nose; and the same practice was observed on various parts of the east coast, by Cook's people, who gave the ornament the appellation 'sprintsail-yard.' "

Other writers again assert that good land is plentiful in Western Australia, and that the only serious evil which exists is the want of steady labourers and artizans. One author has the following observations on this subject:—

"This colony may prosper in the course of years, but for the present it must be considered, when compared with the expectations of those who founded it, a decided failure. Why this failure, with all the elements of success, a fine climate, plenty of good land (in proportion, perhaps, to the population), plenty of capital, and enough of labourers? The explanation is easy; in this colony

there never has been a class of labourers. Those who went out as labourers, no sooner reached the colony, than they were tempted by the superabundance of good land, to become landowners. One of the founders of the colony, Mr. Peel, (who, it is said, took out a capital of £50,000, and 300 persons of the labouring class, men, women, and children,) has been represented as left without a servant to make his bed, or fetch him water from the river. The writer of the first book concerning this colony, states, that landing in Cockburn's Sound, with goods taken from England, he did with some difficulty procure workmen to place his goods under a tent; but that there, for want of workmen to remove them, they remained till they were spoiled, as the tent became rotten. In such a state of things it was impossible to preserve capital. While Mr. Peel was without servants, his capital perished; but as soon as his capital had perished for want of servants, those who had been his servants insisted on his giving them employment. Having tried a life of complete independence, and felt the pains of hunger, they now wanted to become labourers again. At one time Mr. Peel was to be seen imploring his servants to remain with him; at another, escaping from their fury, because he could not give them work. The same thing happened in many cases. In each case it was owing to the facility with which people—labourers, when they reached the colony—became independent landowners. Some of these independent landowners died of hunger; and at a time, too, when, as it happened, a large supply of food had reached the colony from Van Dieman's Land. Many of them, both capitalists and labourers—capitalists with capital, and labourers without work,—have removed to Van Dieman's

Land; the cost of passage (for the latter) being defrayed by settlers in that prosperous colony."

Dr. Lang, also, who has made himself so well acquainted with the different divisions of Australia, has formed an unfavourable opinion of the settlement. He says:—

"The western coasts of all the large divisions of land, in the southern hemisphere, are remarkably barren, with the exception perhaps of the immediate vicinity of Swan River; nothing is visible along the coast but an interminable range of low sand hills and calcareous rocks: there are no mountains to relieve the eye, and to afford, by the decomposition of their luxuriant vegetation, a rich soil for the valleys; there are no rivers to conduct to the interior; and scarcely even a spring of fresh water can be found. The west coast of Southern Africa, the west coast of South America, and the west coast of New Zealand, are, with few exceptions, equally barren.

"Supposing both the climate and the soil at Swan River to be equal to those of New South Wales, there are no roads in Western Australia; labour is not to be procured but at an exorbitant price; and wool, the chief produce of the soil, which is raised under all these disadvantages, is sold at the very same price in England as the produce of the eastern colony."

Notwithstanding these various statements, this colony appears to be increasing in prosperity, having more than doubled its population during the last ten years; consequently its trade and commerce must likewise be extending; and we have little doubt that, although not possessing the numerous advantages of the eastern colony, in a few years it will become a place of great importance.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Is situated, in a south-eastern direction, along the southern shore of Australia, comprehending the space between 132 degrees and 141 degrees of east longitude. It lies between the Swan River and New South Wales. This colony has been imperfectly explored, and it is still but comparatively little known, although each successive day is throwing more light upon the subject. But from the numerous conflicting statements made by the South Australian Company and recent travellers, it is impossible for any person not on the spot to reconcile these contradictions; we must, therefore, leave the reader to form his own judgment upon the following account, which is compiled from various sources.

The conditions under which this colony was established, will be best seen by the following abridgement of the Act of Parliament framed and passed for the formation of the new settlement :—

“The colony to be erected into a province, under the name of South Australia; extending from the 132nd to 141st degree of east longitude, and from the south coast, including the adjacent islands, northwards to the tropic of Capricorn.

“The whole of this territory, within the above limits, to be open to settlement by British subjects.

“Not to be governed by laws applying to other parts of Australia, but by those only expressly enacted for this colony.

“The colony in no case to be employed as the place of confinement of transported convicts.

“No waste or public lands to become private property, save by one means only, namely, by purchase at a fixed minimum price, or as much above that price as the competition of public auction may determine.

“Subject to the above restriction, and to the necessity of previous surveys, all persons, whether residing in the colony or Great Britain, to be free to acquire property in waste or public land in fee, and without limit, either as to quantity or situation.

“The whole of the purchase money of such waste or public land to be employed in conveying labourers, natives of the British Isles, to the colony.

“The emigrants conveyed to the colony with the purchase-money of waste land, to be of the two sexes, in equal numbers; a preference amongst the applicants for a passage cost free will be given to young married persons, without children; so that for any given outlay of their money, the purchasers of land may obtain the greatest amount of labour, wherewith to cultivate the land, and of population to increase its value.

“Commissioners to be appointed by government to manage the disposal of waste or public lands, the expenditure of the purchase-money thereof as an emigration fund, and to discharge other duties relative to the colony.

“Until the colony be settled, and the sales of public lands shall have produced a fund adequate to the want of labour in the colony, the commis-

sioners to have authority to raise money on loan, by the issue of bonds or otherwise, bearing colonial interest, for the purpose of conveying selected labourers to the colony; so that the first body of emigrating capitalists going out to buy land, may from the first be supplied with labour. The commissioners being empowered, until such loan or loans be repaid, with interest, to apply all proceeds of the sales of lands in repayment of such loans.

“ For defraying (provisionally) the necessary expenses of the commission and of the colonial government, the commissioners to have authority to raise money on loan, by the issue of bonds, or otherwise, and provided such expenditure do not exceed two hundred thousand pounds in the whole, the amount thereof to be deemed a colonial debt, and secured upon the revenue of the colony.

“ The authority of the commissioners to continue until the colony, having attained a certain population, shall, through the means of a representative assembly, to be called by his Majesty, undertake to discharge the colonial debt, and to defray the cost of future government; when the colony is to receive such a constitution of local government, as his Majesty, with the advice of his privy council, and with the authority of parliament, may deem most desirable. The population of the province must amount to at least fifty thousand before it be lawful for the crown to frame a constitution for the colony.”

The colony of South Australia is self-supporting. From the reign of Queen Elizabeth down to the year 1831, it appears to have been the practice of all governments to make large grants of colonial land to individuals, who were at all times found ready to receive such grants, unconditionally, to

any extent; the consequences of such a measure have uniformly been a scarcity of labour.

In 1831, a number of influential gentlemen formed themselves into a committee, for the purpose of establishing a chartered company, to carry into effect this new principle. This committee, in their resources for correct information, as to the general character of the country, in which it was intended to introduce this novel mode of colonization, spared no pains, having examined every publication relating to the subject, and every individual, within their reach, who had personally visited its coasts. The evidence resulting from these researches having been published, a number of persons intending to settle in the proposed new colony were collected, but after a long and unsuccessful negotiation with the government to obtain the desired charter, these intending emigrants were dispersed, and the project at that time abandoned.

About the beginning of 1834, another committee was formed, with the same objects, under the name of the South Australian Association. By great exertions they succeeded in obtaining a bill for the colonization of South Australia upon these principles, which received the royal assent on the last day of the session of 1834.

This bill empowers the commissioners, appointed by the crown, to declare all the lands of the colony (excepting only portions which may be required for roads and footpaths,) to be open to purchase by British subjects, and to make regulations for the surveying and sale of such lands, and for the letting of unsold portions for any period not exceeding three years. The commissioners may sell the land, either by auction or otherwise, but it is rendered imperative that they sell in public, for ready money, and in no case for a lower price than

twelve shillings sterling per acre; but the upset price to be uniform, whatever the quantity or situation of the land put up for sale.

The following official account of the plan of colonization, published by the commissioners, will best illustrate the subject:—

1. The characteristic feature of the plan of colonization, laid down by the act of parliament, is a certain means for securing a sufficient supply of free labour.

2. This is accomplished by requiring every applicant for colonial land, in order to entitle himself to a grant, to pay a certain sum per acre to a general fund to be employed in carrying out labourers.

3. The emigration fund, thus raised, is placed under the management of the commissioners, whose duty it is to regulate the rate of payment, so as to obtain neither too large nor too small a number of labourers; and by the selection of young healthy persons of good character, and both sexes in equal numbers, to render the fund as efficient for the purposes of the colony as possible.

4. This arrangement secures many very important advantages. First, having provided a sufficient supply of *free* labour, the act of parliament declares that no *convicts* shall be sent to the settlement; and thus the colonists are protected from the enormous evils which result from the immorality and profligacy unavoidable in a penal settlement. Secondly, as the labourers will be carried out at the common cost of the landowners, by means of the emigration fund, and as they will be sufficiently numerous, it is not necessary that they should be *indentured* to any one. Both employers and labourers will be perfectly free to

enter into any arrangement which may be mutually agreed upon; a state of things which experience has shown to be much more conducive to contentment and prosperity than any other. Thirdly; the contribution to the emigrant fund being a necessary preliminary to the acquisition of land, labourers taken out cost-free, before becoming landowners, and thus ceasing to work for others, will furnish the means of carrying out other labourers to supply their places. This arrangement, the fairness of which must be obvious to every one, is really beneficial, not only to those who are landowners in the first instance, but to those also who may become such by course of industry and frugality; for while it diminishes the injurious facility with which, in most colonies, a person with scarcely any capital can become a petty landowner or *cottier*, a temptation which few have sufficient strength of mind to resist, notwithstanding the state is one of incessant care and toil, it holds out a prospect of real independence and comfort to those who will patiently wait the very few years which are necessary to enable any one, with colonial wages, to acquire sufficient capital to purchase land and become a master. Fourthly, as those who will cultivate their land, and thus require many labourers, will contribute no more to the emigration fund than those who leave it waste, the non-cultivation of extensive appropriated districts—one of the chief obstacles to the progress of every colony hitherto established—will be greatly discouraged, if not altogether prevented.

5. In determining the amount of contribution to the emigrant fund, the commissioners are required, at any given time, to make a uniform charge per acre, whatever may be the situation or quality of the land granted, and in no case to fix the charge

at less than twelve shillings per acre. The payment is made once only—namely, when the party receives a grant of the land; which grant gives him an absolute and unconditional title to the estate; the crown making no reservation whatever.*

6. As the contribution to the emigrant fund is the sole condition of obtaining land, the amount of contribution is described in the act of parliament and in the regulations as to its price. It is worthy of remark, however, that as the commissioners are required to expend the emigration fund, without any deduction whatever, in carrying out the labourers, the whole contribution is returned to those who make it, in the form of passage-money for their labourers; and therefore, strictly speaking, it is not land, but the facility of obtaining labour which is bought. It is important that this principle should be steadily kept in view by those who may desire to understand the plan on which the colony is formed.

The following are the *Regulations of the Commissioners for the Sale of Land* in the colony:—

1. The survey of the public land shall, as far as possible, be carried so much in advance of settled districts, that there shall be at all times an extent of land surveyed and open to purchase, exceeding the wants of the colonists.

* The tenure by which land is held in South Australia is greatly superior to that by which land is held in the other Australian colonies, where the crown reserves to itself the right of mining, cutting timber or stone for public works, and of making roads across any estate it chooses; while in South Australia no reserve whatever is made by the crown. This is the more important to the fortunate proprietors of those lands where valuable mines are worked.

[This regulation secures to intending purchasers, at all times, the most complete liberty of appropriation, with respect both to the quantity and situation of the land which they may desire to obtain.]

2. Surveyed lands shall be divided, as nearly as may be, into sections of eighty acres each, with the exception of the site of the first town, which was divided into acre sections; and maps of the surveyed lands, accompanied by the best practicable description of them, shall be constantly exhibited in the Land-office.

[By this regulation intending purchasers are enabled to specify, accurately, the situation and quantity of the land they may wish to obtain.]

3. One month's public notice shall be given of the time when any portion of public lands will first become open to purchase.

[This provides against any one obtaining an advantage over another by applying for land until all shall have had time to examine the district to be sold.]

4. On some fixed day of every week, and at some fixed hour, the Land-office shall be opened for the purpose of deciding upon applications for land. All applications must be made by sealed tender, by filling up a printed form, which will be supplied at the Land-office. Each tender must specify, by reference to the map, the section or sections for which the intending purchaser applies. All sections included in the same tender must adjoin each other. All tenders will be opened in public, and those received on the same day will be opened at the same time. Such tenders as do not comprise any section included in any other tender, shall be first disposed of.

When the same section shall be named in two

or more tenders, that tender shall be preferred which comprises the greatest quantity of land. When one or more sections shall be named in two or more tenders, comprising equal quantities of land, then the tender to be preferred shall be decided by lot. Any one holding one or more land orders under the preliminary sales, and wishing to delay his right of selection, as regards the rural land, may do so on condition, that the selection, when made, shall be in conformity, in all respects, with the regulations at such time in force, the party being considered as having paid for the quantity of land contained in his order or orders, and not previously claimed; but in all other respects being placed on an exact equality with the parties then purchasing.

The quantity of land required to complete an integral number of sections to be paid for at the price of the day.

[This renders the mode in which land is disposed of perfectly fair to all intending purchasers. By means of the tender, the purchaser is secured against all unfair competition by other persons, who might, if the application was made in public, endeavour to obtain the same land, merely because it was known that the first applicant had taken the trouble to make a good selection.

In order to prevent as much as possible obstacles to the after sale of large unbroken blocks of land, it is required that all sections included in the same tender shall adjoin each other. This, however, by no means prevents distinct applications from the same party for the purchase of sections not adjoining.

The commissioners, in giving the preference to those tenders which comprise the greatest quantity of land, only carry into effect the principal object of the South Australian Act, viz., that there shall

be no limit or check to the appropriation of land, but that the greatest quantity applied for shall be immediately sold.]

5. The sole condition of purchase shall be the payment of money, at the rate of £1 sterling per acre; and *nothing, whether above or below the surface, will be reserved by the Crown.* Five per cent. on the amount of the purchase-money shall be deposited at the time of making the tender, and the remainder shall be paid within one week of the sale. If the remainder of the purchase-money be not paid within the time specified, the land shall be again open to purchase, and the deposit shall be forfeited.

[To determine the price of land was the most difficult duty the commissioners had to perform, and was likewise the most important; for upon the correctness of that determination depended the sufficiency or insufficiency of labour, and the extent to which it could be combined, and thereby rendered efficient. At the same time, it was considered desirable to place the price rather too low than too high, as a future advance could injure no one.]

6. Leases of the pasturage of unsold lands shall be granted, on the following conditions, among others:—The term to be three years, the tenant having a right of renewal in preference to any other applicant.

Cultivation of the soil and the felling of timber to be disallowed. The land, or any portion of it, to be liable to sale, and if it be sold, the lease to terminate on a notice of two months, the tenant having a right of renewal to unsold portions.

The yearly rent to be 40s. sterling per square mile, but this regulation not to apply to proprietors of land contracted to be purchased before the 31st

of August, 1836. No lease to contain any fractional part of a square mile of pasturage.

[This regulation affords the greatest facility for the growing of wool, and the rearing of live stock. By the low price of pasturage one means is provided for a mode of production which has been so eminently successful in the neighbouring settlements of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, while the price of £1 per acre for land in possession provides another facility, viz, shepherds, not being convicts, but persons brought up to the management of sheep and cattle. Without an ample supply of pastoral labourers, the lowness of rent for pasturage would be of very little benefit to the colonist.]

7. Any one who shall hereafter pay in advance to the proper officer, either in England or in the colony, the price of 4000 acres of land, or upwards, shall have a right, for every 4000 acres thus paid for, to call on the colonial commissioner to direct the survey of any compact district within the colony, of an extent not exceeding 15,000 acres; and within fourteen days after the publication of such surveys at the land office, to select his land from any part of such district before any other applicant. If two parties should apply at the same time for the same survey, the decision between them shall be according to Rule 4.

8. An accurate statement of all purchases of land made, and leases of pasturage granted, specifying the quantity and station in each case, the name of the purchaser or tenant, shall be published from time to time in the "Colonial Gazette."

The following are the *Regulations for the Selection of Emigrant Labourers* :—

1. The act of Parliament declares that the whole of the funds arising from the sale of land and the

rent of pasturage shall form an emigration fund, to be employed in affording a free passage to the colony from Great Britain and Ireland for poor persons, "provided that they shall, as far as possible, be adult persons of the two sexes, in equal proportions, and not exceeding the age of thirty years."

2. With a view to carrying this provision into effect, the commissioners offer a free passage to the new colony, including provisions and every expense on the voyage, to persons of the following description:—

3. Agricultural labourers, shepherds, bakers, blacksmiths, braziers, and tinmen, smiths, shipwrights, boat-builders, butchers, wheelwrights, sawyers, cabinet-makers, coopers, curriers, furriers, millwrights, harness makers, boot and shoemakers, tanners, brick makers, lime burners, and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings.

4. Persons engaged in the above occupations, who may apply for a free passage to South Australia, must be able to give satisfactory references to show that they are honest, sober, industrious, and of general good character, and they must fill up a form, to be obtained at the office of the commissioners, or of their agents in the country, and transmit it, properly attested, to the secretary.

5. They must be real labourers, going out to work for wages in the colony, of sound mind and body, not less than fifteen, nor more than thirty, years of age, and married.

6. To the wives of such labourers as are thus sent out, the commissioners offer a free passage with their husbands.

7. To single women a free passage will be granted, provided they go out under the protection of their parents or near relatives. The preference

will be given to those accustomed to farm and dairy work, to sempstresses, straw-platters, and domestic servants.

8. The children of parents sent out by the commissioners will receive a free passage, if they are under one, or full, fifteen years of age. For each child between the age of one and fifteen £3 must be paid by the parents or friends, or by the parish. The commissioners cannot in any way become responsible for it.

9. Emigrants will, for the most part, embark at the port of London, but if any considerable number should offer themselves in the neighbourhood of any port of Great Britain or Ireland, arrangements will, if possible, be made for their embarkation at such port.

10. The expense of reaching the vessel and taking their baggage on board must be borne by the emigrants, but on the day appointed for their embarkation they will be received, even though the departure of the ship should be delayed, and will be put to no further expense.

11. Every adult emigrant is allowed to take half a ton weight, or twenty measured cubic feet of baggage. Extra luggage is charged 50s. the ton.

12. The emigrants must provide the bedding for themselves and children, and the other articles most useful for emigrants to take with them are, strong plain clothing, and the lighter and most necessary tools of their own trades.

13. On the arrival of emigrants in the colony, they will be received by an officer, who will supply their immediate wants, assist them in reaching the place of their destination, be ready to advise with them in case of difficulty, and at all times give them employment, *at reduced wages*, on the

government work, if from any cause they should be unable to obtain it elsewhere.

14. When emigrant labourers arrive in the colony, they will be, at perfect liberty to engage themselves, to any one willing to employ them, and will make their own bargain for wages. This arrangement, while it leaves the emigrant free to act as he may think right, manifestly renders it impossible for the commissioners to give any exact information as to the amount of wages to be obtained; they can merely state that in all new colonies, particularly in the neighbouring settlements of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, wages are much higher than in England.

15. Persons who are ineligible to be conveyed out by the emigration fund may, unless disqualified on account of character, accompany the emigrants on payment of the passage-money, which, for a grown-up person, is about £20. The charge made by owners of ships for the passage of children vary, but the following may be taken as an average:—

Under one year of age,	No charge.
One, and under six,	£5
Six years of age,	7
Seven years of age,	7

and so on to fifteen, for which the charge is £20, the same as for a grown-up person.

16. Persons going out at their own cost to occupy land, or to engage in business, may obtain a free passage for their children and other dependents, provided that such children or other dependents go out as *bona fide* labourers, to work for their parents or others, and that they conform in age, and in every other particular, to the rules here laid down.

17. Purchasers of land in this country will be allowed the privilege of selecting servants and labourers for a free passage, at the rate of one for every pound expended in land, provided that the selection is made within a reasonable time, that it is in conformity with the existing regulations for the selection of emigrant labourers, and that there is at the time a want of labour in the colony.

18. Any emigrant capitalist, or other party, who may be desirous of fitting out a vessel for the colony from any port in Great Britain or Ireland, will be allowed to carry out, at the charge of the commissioners, any approved emigrants who may offer themselves in the neighbourhood of such port, provided that the arrangements for securing the comforts and safety of the emigrants on their passage are approved of by the commissioners, and that the charge per head does not exceed that for emigrants leaving the port of London.

Agents for the sale of land in South Australia have been appointed by the colonization commissioners at the following places. They are supplied with the printed regulations, certificates, &c., and will at all times furnish every information required.

England — Arundel, Ashburton, Bedford, Birmingham, Boston, Bristol, Bromsgrove, Canterbury, Chichester, Derby, Eriswell, Exeter, Falmouth, Gosport, Guernsey, Halifax, Harlow, Hertford, Hull, Ipswich, Jersey, Leamington, Leeds, Lewes, Liverpool, London, Lymington, Maidstone, Monmouth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Penzance, Plymouth, Portsea, Portsmouth, Reading, Shrewsbury, Southampton, Stockbridge, Tavistock, Winchester, Worthing, Yarmouth.

Scotland. — Cupar, Clyde (port of), Dundee, Glasgow, Haddington, Inverness, Leith, Montrose, Perth, Stirling, St. Andrews.

Ireland.—Cork, Dungannon, Limerick, Tralee.

Before entering upon the history of South Australia, we will lay before our readers an extract from the report of a speech delivered by Colonel Torrens, in the House of Commons, 15th February 1837, on the motion for the re-appointment of the select committee on emigration.

“I am not only prepared to show that emigration would cost less than maintaining paupers in their parishes at home, and would thus prove a measure of permanent economy and retrenchment—I am prepared to go much further than this. I am prepared to prove, both theoretically and practically, that emigration may be so conducted as to replace, with interest, the whole of the expenditure incurred in effecting it, and to aid the finances of the country, by opening new and not inconsiderable sources of public revenue.

“It can be proved from the known properties of land, that a judiciously conducted emigration, besides creating the means of replacing the expenditure it cost, might occasion an increase of revenue. Land capable of producing a quantity of produce, greater than the quantity expended in cultivating it, acquires exchangeable value, even while in an unreclaimed and forest state, as soon as population and capital approach. While government advances capital to the redundant population emigrating to the colony, it would at the same time be able to sell, at constantly advancing prices, land adjacent to the locations and townships it established.—Under proper management the sale of crown lands in the colonies might be made a considerable source of revenue. Who would undertake to calculate the amount to which this revenue might be raised? Who would venture to name the sum which the treasury would receive for lands as the

tide of population and capital flowed on from the Canadian lakes to the Northern Pacific, and as the immeasurable plains of Australia became the seat of a British nation?

"These are not the doubtful conjectures of speculative theory, they are the certain conclusions of actual experience. Should any honourable member conceive that I am departing from the strict sobriety of fact, let him look to the United States of North America, and learn from the *practical* men of that untheorising country, the gigantic scale upon which emigration and colonization may be beneficially carried on. The population of these States is nearly 12,000,000; it doubles in a period of about twenty-five years, and the main annual increase may be taken at half a million. Now, of this half million annually added to the population, the far greater proportion annually emigrate to the Western Territory. Here their capital rapidly accumulates, the forest recedes before them, villages and towns rise as by enchantment, and the unreclaimed and unappropriated lands, bordering upon the perpetually extending circle, successively acquire exchangeable value, and are sold by the government for increasing amounts.

"I find, from an inspection of the documents accompanying the President's message to Congress, that it is stated, in the Report of the Commissioner of the general Land-Office, that the quantity of land, purchased by individuals, from the government, during the last year, was 1,274,644 acres; and that the payments made into the Treasury, on account of the sale of public lands, amounted to 2,159,165 dollars.

"Will it be said that England cannot do in her colonies what America is doing in her western

forests? If a considerable and increasing revenue be derived from the sale of unappropriated lands in the State of Ohio, on the *American side of the lakes*, is it unreasonable, is it visionary to expect that a similar revenue may be obtained from the sale of similar lands in Upper Canada, on the *English side of the lakes*? In Upper Canada, the soil, the climate, and the commercial position, are little, if at all, inferior to those of the State of Ohio. Canada, in proportion to her wealth and population, has advanced not less rapidly than the United States. Citizens of the United States have crossed the lakes in considerable numbers, and have taken up their domicile within the Canadian frontier, rather than locate themselves on the unappropriated lands of the Union. From all these facts the inference is conclusive and irresistible, that a well regulated emigration to British America would, in a short period, not only replace the advances by which it had been effected, but bestow upon the unappropriated land, in the neighbourhood of its locations, an exchangeable value, which would yield a clear revenue to the state.

“With respect to our Australian colonies, the evidence that a direct emigration to them would replace its own expenses, is not so direct; but in the absence of experimental, we have the highest degree of presumptive proof. The prosperity of the United States and Canada has been outstripped by the yet more rapid growth of the important colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land; the climate of Australia is confessedly superior to that of North America; colonists in New South Wales would require less substantial habitations, and less expensive clothing than in Canada; their lands would be less heavily timbered; they could

work all the year ; their fine wool would furnish a valuable staple for exportation ; their vicinity to the great eastern archipelago, to India, and to China, would open to them the prospect of an almost boundless commerce. All these advantages might be expected to counterbalance the first disadvantage of a longer and more expensive voyage. If an extensive emigration to New South Wales would, in the first instance, be more costly than one of similar magnitude to British America, the repayments would be earlier and more rapid ; while the value which the influx of population and capital bestowed upon the fertile plains of Australia might be expected to open a source of very considerable revenue from the sale of crown lands.

“ I will now conclude. I venture to hope that in the course of the observations which I have made, I have proved to the satisfaction of the House, the expediency of an extensive emigration from the United Kingdom to the colonies. Such an emigration, judiciously conducted, would, I am fully persuaded, be the appropriate remedy,—the true specific—for the deep-seated disease which afflicts our social system. It would remove the difficulties which now render improvement impossible ; it would prepare the way for the consolidation of farms in Ireland, and for an amended administration of the poor-laws in England : and would thus, while correcting the evils of a redundant population, effectually prevent their future recurrence. Such an emigration, too, would be a measure of economy and retrenchment, *and a source of growing revenue.* The expense of locating the able-bodied poor in the colonies would be less than that of maintaining them at home ; the rapid

re-production of capital, when applied to fertile soil, would enable them in a short time to replace the expenses of their first establishment; *while the value which the influx of an industrious population bestowed upon the colonial lands, at the disposal of the crown, would become a permanent source of national revenue, and of clear and unbought advantage to the country.* While we legislate for our country, we may be permitted to rejoice in the brightening prospects of the world; while our chief aim should be to endeavour to do good in our generation, we may be allowed to exult in the thought, and to derive a heightened ardour from the consideration that the beneficial influence of our measures may extend to the generations that are to come. In Time's restless revolutions, that which is now British America will be a confederation of new independent States, stretching from the St. Lawrence to the Pacific, and rivalling their elder brethren south of the interior waters; and the vast insular continent of New Holland, more populous than Europe, must cease to be an appendage of the British Isles. But throughout these extensive and remotest regions of the world the British race, language, and institutions will prevail. In giving effect to extensive and improved plans of colonization, we are multiplying the British nation; we are rocking the cradles of giant empires; we are co-operating with the schemes of Providence; and are its favoured instruments in causing Christian civilization to 'cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.' I give my most cordial assent to the original motion, believing, as I do, that emigration is the most important subject which can come under the consideration of Parliament; and impressed with the conviction that the honourable

member who has brought forward the resolution with so much ability and zeal, deserves to be ranked among the benefactors of his country and of mankind."

South Australia, as we have already said is situated in a south-eastern direction along the southern shore of Australia, comprehending the space between the 132nd and 141st degrees of east longitude, being the limits of the colony, which in a straight line comprise a distance of 500 miles; the extent of coast, including the coasts of Kangaroo Island and the shores of Lake Alexandrina, amounts to about 2,150 miles; and between the eastern extremity of Lake Alexandrina and Cape Wiles, the distance in a straight line being about 220 miles, the extent of land, washed either by the ocean or the waters of the lake, amounts to about 1,400 miles. It lies between Swan River and New South Wales, and forms an extent of country nearly double that of the British Isles, containing an area of 300,000 square miles, or 192,000,000 acres. It is about fourteen weeks' sail from England,* or at nearly the same distance as the East Indies, and situated in the centre of the three principal, and several minor British Colonies in this part of the world; Port Adelaide is only six days' sail from Luncheon, on the north side of Van Dieman's Land, and twelve days' sail from Sydney, in New South Wales, as will be seen in the following table.

* The successful establishment of Ocean Steam communication with our south-eastern colonies is of great importance. The delays in coaling at the different stations considerably prolonged the passages of the *Australian* and *Great Britain*; this remedied, no doubt the voyage will be accomplished in less than ten weeks. Full particulars of the different routes will be found in the Appendix.

TABLE OF SAILING DISTANCES FROM AND TO
PORT ADELAIDE.

Place.	Distance in Miles.	Winds.	Time. Days.	Proper Seasons.
From Port Adelaide to				
Timor.....	2,700	Favourable at all times.	20	All times.
Java.....	2,650	Ditto.	18	Ditto.
Madras.....	4,700	Ditto.	33	Ditto.
Ceylon.....	4,500	Ditto.	32	Ditto.
Isle of France	4,400	Ditto.	29	Ditto.
C. of G. Hope	6,000	Ditto.	40	Ditto.
England.....	11,500	Variable.	115	Ditto.
Van D. Land	800	Favourable.	6	Ditto.
Sydney.....	1,200	Favourable in general.	12	Ditto.
To Port Adelaide from				
Timor.....	2,700	Favourable at all times	23	All times.
Java.....	2,650	Favourable.	18	Ditto.
Madras.....	4,700	Ditto by proper route.	36	Ditto.
Ceylon.....	4,500	Ditto.	34	Ditto.
Isle of France	4,400	Varia., gen. favourable.	29	Ditto.
C. of G. Hope	6,000	Strong and favourable.	34	Ditto.
England.....	11,500	Ditto.	110	Ditto.
Launceston...	700	Always easy.	10	Ditto.
Sydney.....	1,200	.....	16	Ditto.

The coast of South Australia was first explored in the year 1802, though very imperfectly, by Captain Flinders, by whom, with the assistance of Mr. Westall, who accompanied him, much information was communicated. Captain Flinders remarks, he found in one part "much refuse from the shore, as well as sea-weed floating about, by which some hope of finding a river was communicated;" and subsequently, "besides quantities of

grass, and branches of trees or bushes, floating in the water, there was a number of long gauze-winged insects topping about the surface, such as frequent fresh water lakes and swamps." He also saw smoke rising in various places. In proof of the insufficiency of his survey, the captain says, "My examination was tolerably minute, to be done wholly in a ship; but much still remained, which boats would best accomplish, to make the surveys complete, especially in the bays of the mainland."

The next expedition to this coast, after Flinders, was under the command of Captains Bawdin and Freycinet, with whom was M. Peron, a naturalist of considerable note. This party fell in with Captain Flinders at Encounter Bay, and thus, by a few days only, was the discovery of those magnificent inlets, Spencer's and St. Vincent's Gulfs, anticipated by the British voyagers.

Captain Dillon, the well-known discoverer of the remains of La Perouse, visited this part of the southern coast, in the year 1815; his object was principally commercial, and he remained in the neighbourhood for nearly three months. From the account of his voyage, which he published, we have obtained some valuable information.

Captain Sutherland, who was for many years employed in the trade between England and Australia, and who, from being a landed proprietor in Van Dieman's Land, had resided there for a length of time, visited South Australia on a sailing voyage, in the year 1819. He remained at Kangaroo Island seven months, and published an account of his residence there, which is the more valuable, as being the observation of a practical Australian agriculturist, as well as the work of an experienced navigator. He was also examined at considerable length before a committee appointed

to investigate the natural circumstances of the locality; and it is but justice to say, that the verbal evidence then given, tended completely to corroborate his written statement.

Captain Goold, late master of H.M.S. *Dryad*, and commander of several merchantmen, a most intelligent man, performed two voyages from Sydney to this coast in 1827-28. His object was the seal fishing. His report of the country generally, is very important, and its value is enhanced by the fact of his having lived some time in Australia, and was thus enabled to compare the different places he visited.

Last in order of time, but perhaps first in importance, is the account of Captain Sturt, who traced a river through an unknown country, amidst great dangers and privations, to its joining the sea at Encounter Bay.

The general appearance of South Australia from the sea, is of a far more inviting aspect than any other part of the coast of this vast continent, presenting an endless variety of beautifully verdant and secluded valleys, well watered and finely wooded plains, gently undulating, and rising towards the range of hills, in the back ground. The principal inlets on the coast are Fowler's bay, Denial Bay, Smoky Bay, Strickay Bay, Anxious Bay, Coffin's Bay; and in Spencer's Gulf, which stretches far to the south, indenting the land with its watery wedge, are Port Lincoln and Hardwick Bay. Coming thence round Cape Spencer, we pass through Navigator's Strait into the Gulf of St. Vincent, on the eastern extremity of which is situated the flourishing city of Adelaide.

The Gulf of St. Vincent is without island, rock, reef, or sand bank, excepting the Trowbridge shoal and those of Port Adelaide, which are timely in-

timated by the water shoaling; indeed, by means of the lead the whole gulf is navigable by a stranger in the darkest night; it is protected from the heavy south-sea by Kangaroo Island, an important appendage to the province of South Australia.

Kangaroo Island is about twelve miles south-west of Cape Jervis, and comprises an area of 2,500,000 acres, containing some very fine pastures. The harbour of Nepean Bay is scarcely to be surpassed, and will afford accommodation for some hundreds of vessels. Ships of 700 tons burthen can anchor within half a mile of the landing place. *Kingscote*, the principal settlement of the South Australian Company, is situated on the point of land which divides the Bay of Shoals from Seal Bay, and has two miles of water frontage, one mile in each of these bays; commanding a full view of Nepean Bay, from Point Marsden to Kangaroo Head, including the opposite coast of Cape Jervis.

The country from Cape Jervis, up the Gulf St. Vincent, viewed from the sea is exceedingly picturesque, resembling for the most part the finest parks in England—a resemblance which is made the more striking, from being similarly interspersed with magnificent trees, just numerous enough to add beauty to the land, without encumbering it. A little to the north-west of Cape Jervis is a small boat harbour, called by the natives “Pat Byngar.” Low hills slope down on all sides of this little bay, after crossing which, there is level land of good quality, for a short distance, gradually descending into a valley of fine rich soil. This winds through the country to the northward, gradually tending to the west, and is open to the sea between high

hills, about two miles to the north of "Pat Bungar."

About eight miles up the gulf, a little to the north of the point, called "North-west High Bluff," is a small bay, named Rapid Bay, which is backed by a beautiful little valley surrounded by hills, from which a considerable stream is supplied, that runs through the valley between banks, twenty or thirty feet high; between this bay and the next, called Yanky Lilly, distant about seven or eight miles to the northward, there are three or four rich valleys, abounding in fresh water streams. The hills commencing at Cape Jervis terminate at Yanky Lilly Valley. Above this valley the hills come down in a very bold manner to the sea, but soon recede again, leaving an undulating country for a few miles of a singular description. The different elevations have perfectly flat tops, are covered with a very rich herbage, and are much more bare of trees than the previously mentioned hills. This portion of the coast terminates to the northward in a gentle slope, called by the natives, Aldinghi Plains.

Until within two miles of these plains the coast is of the same picturesque character. A little to the southward are some extensive gravel pits, with deep chasms and gullies, having a very conspicuous appearance from the sea; from these, a gentle slope of nearly a mile runs along the coast into the plains, with an extensive beach of sand and shingle, forming a very narrow bay, called Deception Bay. At the northern end is a remarkable detached rock, of a tabular form; from this to within six miles of the inlet in Holdfast Bay, the coast is bold and rugged, with the exception of one small sandy bay into which a fresh water stream oozes; and about four miles to the southward of this, and just to

the northward of the rock before mentioned, is the largest river that runs into the sea on this side of the gulf. There is a bar at the entrance, over which boats can only pass at high water, and is salt as far as the tide flows, about three miles. There is no anchorage upon this part of the coast. The hills here form an arm from the Mount Lofty range coming down to the sea, lightly timbered, to the position described as six miles from the inlet in Holdfast Bay, where they have the appearance of downs, and here the Glenelg Plains may be said to commence. The range of mountains recede from the coast at this place, and so continue upwards; and a sandy beach commences, which extends to Port Adelaide, and the coast then continues low and sandy to the top of the gulf.

The anchorage in Holdfast Bay is in latitude 35 degrees, Mount Lofty due east by compass. The best anchorage for large ships is in five fathoms, at about three miles distance from the landing. The holding ground is clay of a great consistency, and as the water shoals very gradually, a vessel must drag her anchor up hill for two or three miles before she can sustain any damage. About the middle of the bay is an inlet of the sea, in which boats can enter and discharge their cargoes at high water. The upper part of the inlet, in the winter is fresh, partaking of the character of a fresh water river, having its source among the extensive lagoons in this neighbourhood.

Port Adelaide lies about fourteen miles to the northward of Holdfast Bay, the entrance to which is in latitude 34 deg. 45 min., between two extensive land shoals, dry at low water, through which is a channel, running in a semi-circuitous direction for three miles and a half. To enter this channel a shoal of about 200 yards has to be passed, con-

sisting of clay hummocks covered with sand, over which there is at low water, only two fathoms, having a rise and fall of six feet; when over this shoal, the depth at low water carries from two fathoms and a half to five fathoms, and the width from three or four hundred yards to three quarters of a mile. In all parts there is complete shelter from any sea, as a vessel at low water is perfectly land-locked by hard sand, and apparently in a basin. The harbour then winds in nearly a due southerly direction for seven miles, the first two miles to the eastward being formed by an island (Torrens' Island) having a channel running towards the east for a short distance, about the same width, but of a less depth of water (Angus' Inlet); it then runs to the north for a couple of miles, where it again makes a turn to the left, and flows into the sea, forming a northern entrance to the harbour, at about a mile and a half from the principal channel above described. Off Torrens' Island, for nearly a mile, is a shoal consisting of mud and sand, and the depth of water is much the same as on the shoal described at the entrance. After passing this the depth varies from three to three and a half fathoms, and in some places five fathoms at low water, to within half a mile of the landing place, where ships generally anchor in three fathoms. From Torrens' Island to the top of the port it has the appearance of a river, the sides being skirted with mangrove trees, and excepting off the points (which are few, as there are but slight turns in all this space), bold, and varying in width from half a mile to a mile. The land on the eastern side, called Five Angus, is a mass of mangrove swamps, which is the cause of the landing place being selected so far up, being on a clear spot, from whence

the extensive plain extends that is bounded by the river Torrens.

The view from an elevated spot upon Torrens' Island is most extensive. Beyond the port the country is a perfect plain, stretching away to the north as far as the eye can reach, with the boldest and most elevated part of the Mount Lofty range of hills running at its eastern extremity, twelve or fifteen miles distant, and closing in the view to the southward about twenty miles off, gradually bending round, and terminating on the coast. The plain is in some places open, and covered with a luxuriant herbage, and in others it is well wooded, affording to the eye the most pleasing relief and contrast.

There is much discrepancy in the accounts of those who have visited Port Lincoln and its neighbourhood. Captain Flinders has but a poor opinion of that part of Australia as the site of a colony; while the French navigators Baudin, and Freycinet, think differently.

Spalding Cove, Port Lincoln, was visited by a person of the name of Hamborg, a mate of a sealing vessel, in 1832. He states that he anchored on the eastern side of the cove, in blue clay, with seven fathoms water, and that it is safe from all winds, being nearly land-locked. He went about a mile and a half inland, and found two streams of fine water, as clear as crystal, running into Spalding Cove, from the southward. Among the trees he noticed were cedar, beef-wood, tulip-wood, stringy-bark, iron-bark, and huon-pine. The grass was about knee deep, and in great quantity: it was quite green, and numbers of kangaroos and other animals were feeding on it; the kangaroos were large, and as fat as he had seen elsewhere. The object of Hamborg's visit was to convey thither

a party of thirty persons, with five boats and the necessary implements for catching whales. These people had been there three previous seasons for the same purpose, and had been successful. The black whale is very commonly met with close in shore; the sperm whale not frequently being farther to the southward. Seals are very numerous. Hamborg also found a variety of fish, amongst which were grey mullet, red mullet, soles, mackerel, herrings, snappers, jew fish, salmon, trumpeters, parrot-fish, sting-ray, mussels, oysters, cockles, rock-cod, turtles, &c. The natives were numerous and peaceful; and assisted him in carrying water to the ship. For a little tobacco, and with kind treatment they work well. These natives depend for water on the two streams running into Spalding Cove.

“Of the climate,” says Captain Flinders, “we had no reason to speak but in praise; nor were we incommoded by noxious insects. The range of the thermometer on board the ship was from 66 to 73 degrees. On shore the average height of the thermometer at noon was 76 degrees.”

Captain Dillon landed at Port Lincoln, in 1815, and remained there two days. He reports favourably of the coast. The timber he saw was very large and abundant. The hills were covered with trees, and the land very fertile and productive.

The accounts given of Port Lincoln by the French navigators are also very favourable. After describing its geographical position, they proceed to say:—

“On the western side of the gulf, and near its entrance, is Champaguy Port, (Port Lincoln) one of the finest and most secure in New Holland; in every part of it is an excellent bottom; the depth of water, even close in with the land, is from

ten to twelve fathoms (French), and such is the capacity of this magnificent port, that it is competent to receive the most numerous fleets. In front of this port is Launceston Island (Boston Island) four or five leagues in circumference, and which, placed exactly in the mouth of the port, leaves on each side a passage from two to three miles broad, in both which passages a vessel can work with ease and security. Finally, as if Nature were inclined in favour of Champagne Port, to change the character of monotony and barrenness stamped on the neighbouring lands, she has formed its shores of gently rising slopes, and clothed them with umbrageous forests. We did not find any fresh water at this spot; but the vigour and liveliness of vegetation, and the height of the country were to us certain indices of the existence of some rivulets, or at least of some copious springs. On this the most favoured part of South Australia, there are certainly numerous tribes of inhabitants, for the whole country seemed in flames. So many exclusive advantages insure special importance to Port Champagne, and it may fearlessly be affirmed, that of all the points of this land, this is the best adapted for the establishment of an European colony."

A second visit, made a few weeks later, strengthened the impression in favour of this spot, and the subjoined description of the harbour given:—

"This harbour consists of three basins, in each of which there is not less than ten to twelve fathoms (French) water, with a bottom of muddy sand, and which, from their extent, would be capable of receiving the navies of all Europe. Boston Island is at the mouth of this admirable port, and it forms with the continent two passages in each of which the largest ships of war might work with safety."

The northern passage is the narrowest, and opens into Boston Bay; the southern is larger, and opens on one side into the western basin, and on the other into Spalding Cove. Between the island and the mainland is the channel Degerando, which establishes a direct communication between the three basins, and which at the same time offers excellent moorings for the most numerous fleets. Two small islands, placed at the mouth of the southern basin, likewise afford good shelter. The same may be said of Grantham Island, with regard to the western basin. Shall we repeat here what we have already said as to the fertility of the soil? Shall we speak of the valleys which seem to denote corresponding springs or brooks of fresh water? Is it necessary for us to insist upon those numerous fires, which our companions, in approaching the port, observe on all the neighbouring declivities, and which would seem to attest the existence at this spot of a population much more numerous than on the other points of the south-west coast? Worthy to rival Port Jackson, Port Lincoln is, under every point of view, one of the finest harbours in the world; and of all those discovered by us, whether on the south, the west, or the north of New Holland, it appears, we repeat it, to be the best adapted to receive an European colony."

Captain Goold, whose knowledge of Australia is very extensive, having been round the whole of the island; but is more particularly acquainted with Swan River, King George's Sound, Port Jackson, and Hunter's River. Comparing Boston Bay with these places, he says, that the land of none of them can be compared with it, excepting Hunter's River, which is well known to be the garden and granary of New South Wales. He declares the harbour, soil, climate, position for

commerce, and its vicinity to be excellent fishing grounds, all adapted to render the formation of a colony there highly desirable.

The principal information relative to York's Peninsula has been obtained from Captains Sutherland and Gould; the former of whom resided in the neighbourhood for several months. The soil was thickly covered with timber and brushwood.

Captain Gould landed about twenty miles south of Point Riley, for the purpose of shooting kangaroos. He went about five miles inland, through an open forest country. The soil was a light, sandy loam, about two feet deep, upon a bed of oyster shells and gravel. In the course of his walk he fell in with a lagoon, about two miles from the shore, and endeavoured to wade it, but finding it too deep, he returned and attempted to round it; in this, however, he was disappointed, for after walking about another mile, he fell in with a river running south, towards Hardwick Bay. The water of the river was very clear and good; the stream itself was about fifty yards wide, eight feet deep, and running a strong current. The captain did not attempt to trace it; but finding he could not get round the lagoon, he returned to the boat.

Between Corney Point and Point Pearce, twenty-eight miles to the north-north-east, is a large bay, well sheltered from all southern winds; none others seem to blow with much strength here. The land bends eastward about seven leagues from Corney Point to the head of the bay.

Kangaroo Island has been more thoroughly examined than any other part of the southern coast of Australia by Captain Sutherland, who resided on this island during seven months. He says—

“Twenty ships could moor within a hundred yards of the shore, and the same number anchor in

safety farther off, the water being always smooth, sheltered by the land from the north-west, and from the southward by Kangaroo Head, and from the north-east by Sutherland's Shoal, extending from the point below Point Marsden about six miles, always dry at half-ebb for nearly the whole distance. The shore is thickly lined with wood and shrubs, interspersed with several high hills, protecting the anchorage; the opposite coast on the main is Cape Jervis, which I should judge to be about fourteen or fifteen miles from the first anchorage, but nearer to Kangaroo Head by three or four miles. The main land here is very high, and at the head of the bay wears every appearance of an inlet or river."

The land, according to Captain Sutherland, has every appearance of fertility; a deep loam with coarse grass, abounding with kangaroos and emus. Where these animals feed, the grass is generally excellent for pasture; occasional pools of rain water are seen, and a plentiful supply of good spring water is easily attained by digging for it. "The land here," says the captain, "is as good as any I have seen in Van Dieman's Land. In the neighbourhood of Sydney I have not observed any equal to it. Trees are scattered everywhere over the plains—the swamp-oak or beef-wood and the wattle, both of which indicate good land, are growing in abundance. Close on the shore, within from a quarter to half a mile from the sea, the wood is very thick, but when this belt of wood is passed, you come on to an open country, covered with grass, where there are often hundreds of acres without a tree. I calculated, by comparison with New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, there might be on this plain, on an average three or four trees to an acre. I once crossed the island, a dis-

tance of about sixty miles, in two days. Once passed the belt of wood which surrounds the island, we walked straight on end over the plains, found plenty of water in ponds, saw abundance of kangaroos and emus, and met with no difficulty or trouble. As we crossed the island, I looked to the right and left, and saw everywhere the same open plains, now and then changed in appearance by close timber of great height, on high points and ridges of land. In some places we found the grass very high, and coarse in patches, but where the greatest number of kangaroos and emus was found the grass was short and close. In the other places, close short grass was found between the coarse high patches.

“ While crossing the island, we saw plenty of parrots and wild pigeons, and black swans on the lagoons.

“ With the exception of salt, timber appears to be the principal production, we have observed, of this place. The trees are the same as at New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land; some run exceedingly high, and large in circumference, and may be converted into every domestic purpose, as well as maritime; as many may be found and selected for ships' spars, and other purposes of ship building. Twenty years ago an American ship was cast away on the coast, and the crew built a schooner in Lagoon Bay, which enabled them to get away, after a residence of several months on the island. Salt is produced here in abundance; I should say between two and three hundred tons could be collected from the lagoon with a little attention; the distance to the beach is about three-quarters of a mile, and from the beach to where ships anchor about four miles. This lagoon is a perfect circle, of about three miles

in circumference. The prospect here is, very pleasant. Close to the salt-water lake, is another of fresh, but considerably smaller. It was at this spot our people erected their tents, while collecting the salt. Pigeons and kangaroos make their appearance here regularly, morning and evening, for water, so that we were well supplied with fresh provisions, with very little trouble.

“My attention was next directed to the lime-stone of the island; in several places I found it plentiful, but not generally over the country. Freestone and granite are also in large quantities, so that people emigrating to this country would find every necessary, as in Europe and both the other colonies.

“The climate appeared to be very temperate, and not subject to oppressive heat, nor do the rains fall in torrents, as at Sydney; the dews are heavy, but not injurious to health, which we had ample opportunity of proving, owing to the frequent exposure of our men, many of whom slept under trees and bushes several nights together, and although almost wet through, never experienced any ill effects. I had fifteen men under my command, and though they were of a class of people who take no care of themselves, not one of them was ill during our stay, nor did my own health suffer at all, though I was exposed to all weathers, both night and day.

“January, the month in which I reached the island, is the middle of summer; and the autumn and winter elapsed during our stay. In the winter it appeared to be much less cold than in Van Dieman's Land, and I observed, generally, that the changes of temperature, are less sudden and frequent than in New South Wales.

“The winds there are regular land and sea breezes, with occasional calms; during the winter

months strong south-westerly winds prevail, but are not of any duration, and cannot throw any sea into the anchorages to injure the shipping, they being completely land-locked. A vessel, on making for this island, must be careful not to stand too close to the shore, until they ascertain their true position; as several dangers are still unexplored on the southern part of the island; this I would leave entirely to the judgment of the navigator, who ought always to be guided by circumstances.

There are no harbours on the south side of the island; but in fine weather, a ship may anchor for a few hours in any place along the coast, but must always be ready to slip in case of the appearance of bad weather. There are no natives on the island; several Europeans assembled there; some who have run from ships that traded for salt; others from Sydney and Van Dieman's Land, who were prisoners of the crown. These gangs joined after a lapse of time, and became the terror of ships going for salt, &c., being little better than pirates. They are complete savages, living in bark huts like the natives, not cultivating anything, but living entirely upon kangaroos, emus, and small porcupines, and getting spirits and tobacco in barter for the skins, which they lay up during the sealing season. They dress in kangaroo skins, without linen, and wear sandals made of seals' skins. They smell like foxes. They have carried their daring acts to an extreme, venturing on the main land in their boats, and seizing on the natives, particularly the women, and keeping them in a state of slavery, cruelly beating them on every trifling occasion; and when, at last, some of these marauders were taken off the island by an expedition from New South Wales, the women were

landed on the main, with their children and dogs, to procure subsistence, not knowing how their own people might treat them after a long absence."

Such is Captain Sutherland's description of Kangaroo Island; but other travellers do not appear to give so favourable an account.

Mr. Leigh, in his Journal, says, "The soil of this island, in the vicinity of Kingscote, is composed of sand left by the retiring sea, mixed with a small portion of vegetable mould. The want of rain upon land so dry renders it impossible to produce vegetables, except during the rainy season. About two or three hundred yards from the sea, good soil is found, where young potato plants and peas will thrive; but no sooner is the rain over than the earth is heated to that degree that every vegetable perishes.

"Nine miles in the interior there are belts of iron and limestone running through the island, in the interstices of which good soil is frequently found, sufficient for the growth of excellent corn. In some parts of the island a quantity of kangaroo grass shoots up during the rainy season, on which oxen can be fed. It is possible that potatoes may be grown, but perhaps to no great size. In the gardens of some of the settlers are to be found cresses and small salad.

"This island has been famous for its kangaroos (from whence it derived its name), but at present they are very scarce; the few that remain, however, are hunted by the new colonists. Snakes, from the circumstance of the island being one matted bush, are most abundant; and are seen winding along in all directions. Tarantulas, scorpions, and mosquitoes, are very numerous.

"There are abundance of eagles, pelicans, cormorants, crows, magpies, robin-red-breasts, swal-

lows, and small birds remarkable for the brilliancy and variety of their plumage."

Climate, Seasons, &c.—Australia being situated at the opposite end of the globe, has the effect of reversing the seasons in their relation to those in England. Their summer is our December, January, and February; and the atmosphere during this period, though much heated during the day, is not at all debilitating in its effects on the constitution, owing to the cool bracing breeze which sets in with the evening; their winter is our June, July, and August, but which is rather a season of rain than of snow; there are sometimes slight frosts, all traces of which disappear on the rising of the sun. A fire is agreeable during these months, in the morning and evening. Australia being situated so much further east than England, again affects the relations of time, with regard to day and night. The sun rises there about ten hours sooner than with us; thus when it is five o'clock in the evening in Australia, it is only three o'clock in the morning with us. These changes, however, coming gradually upon the voyager thither, he is unconscious of their taking place, and is made aware of that which has occurred in the position of the seasons only by the names of the months.

The temperature at noon is higher than it usually is in England at the same time, in the corresponding seasons, but there is little difference in the temperature of the mornings and evenings. The sky is usually clear and brilliant, and the atmosphere dry, pure, and elastic. Fogs are seldom seen; a haze sometimes hangs over the lagoons and rivers in the summer season, but these are speedily disposed by the first rays of the sun.

It is unnecessary to go into any detail to prove

the excellence of the climate of South Australia, the salubrity generally being well known and universally admitted. It may, however, be mentioned, that persons rarely feel any ill effects from sleeping on the ground, and that coughs and colds are almost totally unknown. A slight kind of ophthalmia is the only disease peculiar to the climate; and five cases out of six of this occurred during the early days of the settlement, when the people were badly sheltered, suffering from great fatigue, and exposed to a hot sun. The cure, however, is simple and effectual; except with the ignorant and obstinate. The invigorating influence of this climate generally on the human constitution, renders it more fit for invalids, especially Europeans, than any other in the world.

Natural Productions, &c.—Timber forms an important part of the spontaneous productions of South Australia.

The Blue Gum is found in great abundance; those of the largest dimensions growing near the rivers and fresh water lagoons. The timber is heavy, with a close compact grain, and of a red colour. Specimens which have been brought home very much resemble fine Spanish mahogany. White Gum is also abundant; it is of a light colour, and the grain not so compact as the blue gum. It is a tough wood, and will probably make good flooring and weather boards, and may be useful for wheelwrights' work. The Stringy Bark is a most useful tree to the colonists. The bark being of a fibrous texture, and parting easily from the wood, renders it very useful in constructing huts or temporary buildings. The wood itself is of a brown colour, good quality, splits and saws well, and is exceedingly useful in building, fencing, paling, &c. Besides these, there are also the cedar, oak, pine,

tea-tree wattle, and other trees common to the other colonies. The leaves of the tea-tree have been used as a beverage when gathered and dried, which, though not equally good, is little inferior to the tea of China.

The foliage of the trees is of a dark sombre green, the trunks for the most part bare, and limbs scraggy; and when standing isolated, the appearance generally is not very beautiful, but when they stand in clumps this defect is not discernible.

Of shrubs and flowers there are very great varieties, many of which will, no doubt, eventually afford important materials for chemical and medicinal purposes.

The grasses and wild herbage are not the least valuable productions of South Australia; the kangaroo grass grows very luxuriantly, and sheep fatten on it very rapidly. There are several varieties of rib grass, also chicory, trefoil, barnet, and some other herbs which stand the winter, and in that season afford good food for sheep.

In 1846, indications of gold were found on a section comprising 147 acres, at a distance of ten miles from Adelaide, and a company was immediately formed, called the "Victoria Gold Company." Soon after the operations of the company commenced, a vein of auriferous gossan was discovered in the principal shaft, and at length it was found impregnated with native gold of almost perfect purity. Genuine specimens of gold soon adorned the cabinets of the curious, and the working jewelers of Adelaide were employed to mount South Australian gems in some of the virgin gold thus produced in the province.

The excitement produced was extreme; the £2 shares went rapidly up to £30 each, and the fortunate purchasers at the advanced price thought

their fortunes were made; but all at once the prizes wore very much the appearance of blanks; the working of the mines was discontinued, and the price of shares went down to £3 each.*

Copper was first discovered in 1844, and we find in the Government returns for 1850, a list of 49 mines in the province at the close of that year. The greater portion have ceased working, solely from want of funds or labour at a cheap rate. The following mines are now in operation:—

1. The Burra Burra. This great copper mine is situated 90 miles north-by-east from Adelaide. It yields annually about 20,000 tons of copper ore, valued at £20 per ton. This mine and the Patent Copper Company's smelting works, in connection with it, employ about 2,000 men, at wages from £1. to £2. per week. The following shows the proceeds, expenditure, and profits of this vast mine from 1845, to the end of 1851:—

Original paid-up Capital	£12,320
Total proceeds from commencement to 29th September, 1845	949,866
	<hr/> 962,186
Labour and materials, and other expenses in the colony	£ 544,159.
Profits divided	283,360
Paid for land	30,774
Buildings	26,961
Profits undivided	76,932
	<hr/> £962,186

2. Kapunda copper mine, situated 50 miles N.N.E. from Adelaide, is worked by private proprietors. It produces a regular supply of very good ore.

3. North Kapunda, close to the above, also a copper mine; several pitches have been let.

* New deposits have since been discovered, for particulars of which see Appendix.

4. Karkulto copper mines, 76 miles N. by W. The South Australian Mining Association, and the Royal Mining Company are working mines respectively at Karkulto and Karkulto Proper.

5. Worthing copper mine, 14 miles S.S.W. from Adelaide; worked by an English Company.

6. Perseverance (late Adelaide Copper Mine), 12 miles from Adelaide, N.E. by E. Parties digging for gold on licenses.

7. Tungkillo or Ready Creek copper mine, worked by an English Company, 35 miles E N.E. from Adelaide.

8. Enterprise, now called the Consolidated mines, Barossa and Lyndoch valley, copper, 38 miles E. by N. from Adelaide.

9. Kannantoo copper mine, E.S.E., 25 miles from Adelaide. This mine belongs to and is worked by the South Australian Company.

10. The Bremer copper mine, near the last mentioned.

11. Wheel Mary, same locality, leased by G. D. Sisney from the South Australian Company.

12. Wheel Maria, same locality, let to the Worthing Company.

13. Wheel Friendship, same locality.

The value of these mines to this colony is incalculable, and has already been the means of doubling the population.

The province abounds in other mineral riches, amongst which may be included silver, lead, emery, ironstone of very high percentage, &c., only waiting an ample supply of labour to develop their extent and value.

Like New South Wales, South Australia is extremely favoured, in being almost totally exempt from ferocious animals. The native dog may be said to be the only animal of that description: it is

of a blackish brown or red colour, about the size of an English fox, but stands higher, and is stronger made. This animal commits serious depredations among the sheep, unless the flocks are carefully watched. It is not very swift, is extremely cowardly, and easily taken with good dogs.

Kangaroos are of five different species, viz., the forester, the brush, the wallaby, the kangaroo-rat, and the kangaroo-mouse.

The forester is the largest of the species, frequently weighing 150 lbs; it derives its name from being generally found in forests. This animal is exceedingly swift, but is soon wearied out; when hard pressed it turns upon its pursuers, standing erect, and fighting the dogs most fiercely.

The wallaby seldom weighs more than 30 lbs., but is like the former in appearance; it frequents swampy places, and feeds upon grasses and leaves. The flesh is much superior in flavour to the others.

The brush kangaroo is found among rocks, and places difficult of access. It differs from the other species in having a long bushy tail.

The kangaroo-rat and kangaroo-mouse are two varieties of the same species; the former is about the size of a rabbit; the latter is considerably smaller; they also have the ventral sac, or pouch, on the lower part of the stomach. They are night animals, sleeping during the day.

The flesh of all the kangaroo species is wholesome and nutritive: it has no fat except a small quantity round the root of the tail; this part of the animal is highly esteemed as it makes excellent soup, which is considered a delicacy. The skin of the kangaroo makes good leather.

Two or three kinds of flying squirrel, and two different kinds of the opossum, the common and the grey, inhabit the trees. They are perfectly

harmless and inoffensive; their skins are of little value.

The bandicoot is about the size of the common rat; it burrows in the earth, and feeds upon roots: its flesh is highly esteemed by the natives.

The feathered tribes of South Australia are as numerous as in the other colonies, and many of them remarkable for their singular character and beautiful plumage.

The emu is the largest bird; it resembles the ostrich very much, both in form and habits; when standing erect it sometimes measures from five to six feet in height; it has no wings, but runs with great swiftness; it is covered with feathers of a very singular kind, having more the appearance of hair: there is a large quantity of fat immediately under the skin, which yields a fine oil, very useful in oiling shoes and other leather.

The black swan is found upon the lakes and rivers, but is very shy. Wild ducks are very abundant, of two or three varieties, and are excellent eating. Pigeons of several species are found, as also snipes, plovers, and quails; they are easily shot, and are fine eating. The finest bird of the game kind is the wild turkey; it is about the size of an English goose, and of delicious flavour.

The parrot and cockatoo tribes are very numerous, the greater part of them having very beautiful plumage. The different species of small birds are very dissimilar to those of Europe; they are exceedingly numerous, but none of them deserve the character of singing birds.

The inlets, bays, and waters of this colony abound with various kinds of fish. The best kind are snappers, rock cod, bream, mullet, herring, whiting, mussels, rock and bed oysters, prawns, &c.

Whales abound in the various bays of the

colony; and the establishment of the South Australian Company has been very successful in that fishery.

The reptile tribe is not very numerous, though some of them are very dangerous; of these, the brown snake is most deadly. Scorpions, centipedes, and tarantulas, are also found, but their poison is seldom fatal.

The insects of this colony afford a wide and entertaining field for the naturalist; many of them being very beautiful as well as extremely curious. Locusts abound in the summer season, but they do no injury. Flies are very numerous and troublesome in summer, and great care is requisite to protect meat and other articles from their ravages. Mosquitoes, except in low situations near water, and where there are thick woods in the neighbourhood, are not very abundant, and rarely of any serious inconvenience.

With the exception of the range of mountains already mentioned as common to the island, there are but comparatively few of any other description.

The principal river of South Australia is the Murray, which is nearly as broad for the last two hundred miles of its course, as the Thames at London bridge. Its waters are sweet, and drinkable.

On the eastern boundary of the colony is the river Glenelg, which is frequently dry at the mouth, during the hot season. The river Rufus is an insignificant stream, not exceeding four miles in length. The two other streams at present known are the Torrens, and the Hindmarsh, the former of which supplies the settlers with fresh water.

The soil of South Australia, as far as the country has been explored, is considered superior to that of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, in-

asmuch as there does not appear so much bad soil intermingled with the good. It is generally composed of a rich loam averaging about nine inches thick upon a substratum of coarse calcareous rock, and through the whole extent of the plains round the settlement, gives evidence of having been at no very remote period covered by the sea.

Over the hills the soil and vegetation are still fine, and Mr. James, in his "Six Months in South Australia," tells us that he visited a tract of country between the mountains and the mouth of the Murray river that seemed to contain nearly 100,000 acres of excellent rich soil, in many places ready for the plough. In short, the richness and fertility of the soil will, in course of time, enable the settlers to produce the vegetables and fruits found in the market-places of the south of Europe: even in its present infant state, its melons are equal to those of the Levant.

The climate during eight months of the year is as fine and salubrious as could possibly be wished for; but from the latter end of November, all December, January, February, and part of March, the heat is oppressive, almost intolerable. Mr. James says, "I have seen the thermometer in a dark room, nearly closed up, and with a thick roof of thatch over it, as high as 96 degrees, not once, but a dozen different days; and if the instrument is hang upon a wall in the direct beams of the sun, it rises to 140 degrees.

By a register kept very correctly at the government-house during the whole of the year 1837, it rained 115 days, and was fine and clear 250; and this may be taken as a fair average for a series of years. "It is this peculiar character of the climate which ought to recommend, to the cautious settler sheep husbandry over every other sort of rural in-

dustry ; the profits of which, if steadily persevered in, will remunerate him in a few years for all the inconveniences of a bush life."

The dryness of the climate has a most favourable influence on the general health of the colonists. They may be said to live almost in the open air, and appear free from every disease.

As soon as the necessary arrangements were made for erecting South Australia into a British colony, a surveying expedition set sail, under the command of Colonel Light, Surveyor-General, for the purpose of locating the principal settlement. He arrived at Kangaroo Island, August 19, 1836 ; and after having visited the coast in its vicinity, he at length fixed the site of the future settlement ; and on an eminence about six miles inland from the harbour the capital was laid down, which, with its adjacent port, were, by desire of his late Majesty (William IV.), named Adelaide, in honour of his queen.

On the 20th December, 1836, Captain Hindmarsh, R.N., the first governor of the colony, arrived ; and on the 10th of March, 1837, the survey of the town of Adelaide was completed, and forthwith the allotment and sale of the land was commenced. On the 23rd of May, the streets, squares, &c. of Adelaide were named ; and on the 25th, Port Adelaide was declared a legal port.

Up to May, 1837, no fewer than sixteen vessels had arrived in the colony from England, conveying upwards of 1000 souls, with large supplies of provisions, stores, &c. Twenty-five vessels had also arrived from Sydney and Van Dieman's Land, laden with provisions and various kinds of merchandise, and bringing also many intending settlers from these colonies.

The proceedings of government were the means

of calling into existence a joint stock company, called "The South Australian Company." The following is an abstract of the chief regulations of this company, viz. :—

The capital is £500,000, divided into 20,000 shares of £25 each.

The affairs of the company are governed by a board of directors, each holding not less than 100 shares.

The capital may be increased to £1,000,000. Shareholders may have the liberty (with the permission of the directors) to pay up all or part of their subscribed capital, for which interest at 4 per cent. per annum is allowed, and such advance may be recalled on giving due notice to the board.

No calls to exceed 50s. per share, of which twenty-one days' notice will be given.

The company was formed, January, 1836, with a subscribed capital of £200,000, and during the same year this was increased to £300,000 by an issue of 4000 shares at a premium of £1; during 1837 it was further increased by a second issue at 30s. premium.

The first object was to purchase a quantity of land from the colonization commissioners for South Australia, best suited to their purposes, and on terms likely to yield a profitable return. They judged it wisest, if they erred at all on this point, to do so on the safe side, to purchase only as much country land as would be necessary for their plans, and as much town lands as they could obtain; on these principles 102 acres of town land, and 13,770 acres of country land, conveying a right of pasturage to 220,160 acres, were purchased at the preliminary sales. They also secured 320 acres on Kangaroo Island, in right of which they could also lease 5120 acres of pasturage.

The growth of wool was one of the objects contemplated by the company, and for this purpose they obtained, by virtue of their purchase of lands, the right of pasturage of a vast extent of territory, at a rate of less than one farthing per acre, on which they enjoy the important privilege of changing their sheep walks every three years, if necessary, an advantage deemed essential, in wool-growing countries, to the welfare of the flocks and the quality of the wool.

For the foundation of their flocks the company had to look to the adjacent colonies of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, where sheep could be obtained at moderate prices, and from whence the expense of transport is much less than from Europe. They therefore imported into South Australia nearly 3000 fine woolled ewes, and to maintain a pure breed, and secure a high character for their produce, the directors procured from Hamburg three parcels of superior Saxon rams and ewes of the choicest stocks of Germany. The increase of all these sheep rapidly extended the company's flocks, and thereby provided a source of supply for the colony at large. They also imported horses, bullocks, &c.

Another branch of the company's pursuits is the whale, seal, and other fisheries, in accomplishment of which they purchased and equipped several vessels for the sperm and black whale fisheries. These vessels return after each cruise to refit and exchange their casks at the company's naval station at Encounter Bay.

The crews of each ship are engaged for three years, and their families are expected to reside in Kingscote, the company's establishment on Kangaroo Island, where the seamen's wages will be paid from time to time. By this plan the officers

and sailors will have frequent opportunities of enjoying the society of their families, whereby they may be induced to adopt that station as their future home, instead of returning to England upon the expiry of their engagements, thus establishing a nursery for seamen in South Australia that cannot fail to produce important advantages to a colony in such a central position, having easy access by sea to every point of its own extensive territory, and all the other established colonies in New Holland.

In addition to their whale fishing by ships, the company have established a station on shore, for taking the black whale in the winter season.

As the waters of the colony abound in fish of various kinds, proper nets and fishing gear have been sent out, and the cooper's establishment will provide casks for packing the salted and cured fish: they can have a plentiful supply of salt from the lagoons close to Nepean Bay.

The directors allow each family in their service the use of a half acre of land, and aid in its enclosure and the erection of a cottage, and also assist in obtaining a cow and pig. Instead of rations they pay in sterling money, or its representative value.

The city of Adelaide lies in 34 deg. 57 sec. south latitude, and 138 deg. 38 sec. east longitude. It is divided into two equal parts by the river Torrens (called Yatala by the natives), a pretty stream rising in the mountains, and expending itself in the swamp, into which a branch of the harbour has been found to emerge. The situation of the city is very beautiful, either approached from the harbour or Holdfast bay; the road from both of these places is over an extensive plain, lightly timbered. The view presented at each change of the road is

very pleasing and varied ; some parts are through open plains of meadow, from three to four thousand acres in extent, bounded by belts of trees ; on passing which, you enter another and somewhat similar plain, intersected in one part by the river, its course being indicated by a belt of magnificent gum trees growing along its banks ; and in spring, the white flowers of the marshmallow, which border it, indicate to those who are acquainted with Australian botany, the neighbourhood of water. Approaching from Holdfast-Bay, on the right of the plain alluded to, is a slight eminence, well wooded with trees of a different character from those in the low grounds. On this gentle eminence the southern and larger part of the city is erected. This hill, about sixty feet above the level of the plain, forms a table land. The town is, therefore, a dead level, but the views presented by the four exterior frontages, or terraces, of the southern town are very dissimilar from each other, though all are delightful in their kind.

The North Terrace overlooks the valley of the river, separating the two parts of the town, and the Park, which being studded with very fine trees and occasional glimpses of water, add much to the beauty of this situation. The Western Terrace overlooks the extensive plains between the coast and the town, and commands a view of the gulf, together with the vessels at anchor in the roadstead ; it also overlooks the roads both from the harbour and Holdfast-Bay, and is to those who are fond of bustle the most agreeable situation : its direct exposure to the sea-breeze also renders it a most desirable summer residence. The South Terrace is perhaps the least pleasing in point of beauty, the view being more confined than the others ; as the hills here approach the nearest

to the city. The East Terrace appears to be the favourite spot for villa residences ; commanding an extensive view of rich plains, backed by the range of mountains, of which Mount Lofty is the most prominent feature ; and it is difficult to imagine anything more varied and beautiful than the aspect of these hills, as they are illumined by the sun, or enveloped in clouds. These terraces are all situated on the brow of the hill, which slopes gradually into the plain.

The town to the northward of the river (Torrens), is situated on much higher ground, and rises more abruptly from the river ; and although not likely to be so valuable as a place of business as the southern town, the South and East Terraces, from the peculiar beauty and extent of their prospects, are very valuable situations. Some of the sections, in the low grounds on the east, near the river, are extremely valuable for gardens, from the richness of the soil and the vicinity of water. The hill on which North Adelaide is situated, is the termination of a lateral branch of the Mount Lofty range.

Adelaide stands upon a limestone foundation, to the southward of the river, with a shale of about eighteen inches or two feet thick, under which is a marl for about ten feet. On passing through this, a very stiff clay is found, for a considerable depth, somewhat like pipe-clay. Wells have been sunk through these strata, and water obtained in sand at from thirty to fifty feet. These wells require no steening, as the marl and clay stand perfectly well. On the north side of the river the limestone appears more compact.

The South Australian Company, in their pamphlet, entitled the " Great South Land," gives a most flattering description of the City of Adelaide,

which is flatly contradicted by other disinterested writers. The following picture is certainly intended to induce emigration.

“The city, although it has been so called certainly by anticipation, already begins to wear a townly aspect, and to exhibit the symptoms of a thriving community. The houses are increasing, chiefly of the cottage order, and composed of very miscellaneous materials—such as stone, pise, cob, or wood, with slated, thatched, or shingled roofs; but there are also buildings of a more ornate description; and government is erecting a square, and suitable accommodations for the public departments. Business in general is active, and gradually systematising as in the towns at home, and there are already a throng of butchers, bakers, tailors, shoemakers, ladies’ dress-makers, and various other trades. There are also stores for more general supplies, and some of the first houses in London have established branches for mercantile and agency business. The constant arrivals, too, make the settlement a scene of continual activity.”

Any person looking at the position of Adelaide on the map, and acquainted with the character of the climate in this parallel, can have no doubt of its salubrity. Its proximity to the sea, distant only six miles, and to the high range of hills, of which Mount Lofty forms the apex, at a similar distance, imparts a coolness during the summer months, not to be obtained in a less favourable situation. A more appropriate site, however, for the capital of the colony than Adelaide presents, might have been chosen; but it was impossible to have selected one more beautiful. Adelaide will always be a town of considerable importance in South Australia, but from the shallowness of the harbour, and the swampy nature of the shore, the landing at the

port must always be difficult, and must render it impossible for the magnificent projection of the surveyor-general ever to be carried into execution. Port Lincoln is eminently fitted to be the metropolis, and pity it is this was not at once fixed upon. There, sheltered by Boston Island, or in Spalding Cove, any vessel that arrives may be stepped into by a plank from the shore, and all the bullocks, required for dragging goods from Adelaide swamp to Adelaide township might have been dispensed with. Such a consummation appears rapidly approaching, and then the prosperity of the colony will be placed on its firmest basis.

Between North Adelaide and the harbour is a fine meadow plain, extending over a surface of six or eight thousand acres of fine alluvial sand, with a substratum of excellent clay, over which the road passes, on a dead level, beyond the irrigation of the Torrens, which winds its way over a slightly declivitous bed to the head of the estuary which forms the harbour. Vessels of about 200 tons burthen lie within a quarter of a mile of the commissioners' warehouses, on a bottom of soft mud at low water. Great inconvenience has hitherto been experienced in landing cargo, in consequence of mangrove swamp, of about 250 yards in extent, intervening between high-water mark and the eminence where the warehouses are placed. This is now partly remedied, by cutting a navigable canal through the swamp, capable of receiving boats drawing four feet of water, and terminating within a hundred yards of the warehouses, which are extremely capacious, and built of iron-plates, resembling in form and construction an engine-boiler of the larger class. Vessels of a greater burthen remain about a mile and a half below, in four fathoms at low water. To this

point the prospective views of the surveyor-general have been directed, in reserving a line of ground from the anchorage, over the plain, to the western point of North Adelaide, for the formation of a railroad or ship canal to this town, an enterprise which, at no distant day, will be carried into effect. A single pair of sea gates will be all that is necessary to secure floatage for vessels of 350 tons, and a partial diversion of the Torrens will afford an inexhaustible means of cleansing the canal from any accumulation of deposit at the gates.

An association has been formed at Adelaide, in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to assist the colonists in providing for themselves the means of public worship and religious instruction, according to the doctrines of the Church of England.

Among the numerous individuals who, with their families, have emigrated to South Australia, are many members of dissenting congregations. They likewise formed a society, aided by some of the most highly respected ministers, for the support of their different forms of worship.

The following general view of affairs in South Australia, by G. F. Angus, Esq., M. L. C., for many years chairman of the South Australian Company, will be read with interest :—

Lindsay House, near Angaston, South Australia, June, 1852.

AFTER more than sixteen months' residence in this colony, I may presume, with some confidence, to give my judgment of its state and condition. I have taken every opportunity of personally inspecting the settled districts of the country, extending from near the bend of the River Murray, in the north, to Rapid Bay, in the south; from Gulf St. Vincent to the borders of the river, from 150 to 200 miles; and, by diligent inquiry of those who have resided in the more distant and less peopled parts, I have acquired, I trust, a

correct knowledge of the colony. I have been struck with the fact, and have no little satisfaction in making the statement to you, that my own observations have proved the uniform correctness of the information which I endeavoured to diffuse in England of the resources and character of South Australia.

I have found the climate to agree well with me ; and, although in my sixty-third year, I have enjoyed better health and more vigour than at any time in England. The winters are so mild, that I had not a fire in my library at Lindsay House during the last year ; but there is in this, as in most other countries, a great variety of climate. On high ground and in deep valleys it is cold in winter ; but where the country is gently undulating, as in this part of the Barossa Range, it is not so hot in summer nor so cold in winter as it is upon the Gawler and other plains, and also in Adelaide ; nor are we troubled with dust as they are. The country around my house, in all directions, is the most beautiful imaginable—I have not seen anything like it in England—and unquestionably healthy. Many thousands of acres are under cultivation, while the remainder affords fine rich pasture, much resembling an English park. There are some wood and rocky ranges in different parts of it, which supply timber, but form a small proportion of country district.

There are many rich and extensive gardens and vineyards, bearing most kinds of fruits and vegetables ; sheep and cattle stations, dairies of sixty to ninety cows, pigs, horses, and poultry, besides wild game, which afford to the inhabitants provisions abundant and cheap ; and, throughout, there is a good supply of water for all necessary purposes. Many other parts of this colony are also highly favoured in their resources, but they cannot be described within the compass of a letter. There are rich and fertile grain-lands all along the plains from Gawler Town to Adelaide, about twenty-six miles ; in the valleys of Mount Lofty and Mount Barker, from the city of Adelaide to Willunga, about thirty miles around Willunga, and many other places. The River Murray is a majestic and beautiful river, extending back into New South Wales and Victoria, now navigable for boats, but dangerous from sunken timber. Some day, although at a great expense, it will be made navigable for steam-boats, but it will not be in my day, and I consider the money taken out of our land-fund by the Governor last year, in an attempt to commence this work, will be a total loss to the colony. It

requires wisdom to time a great work, as well as it does to lay the plan for its accomplishment. Were the work completed to-day, there can be no traffic upon the line for years to come, nor can it be superinduced for want of population, while on both sides of the river the land is utterly useless for many hundred miles from its mouth, without an expenditure which only an old populous country could afford for such a purpose. About thirty inches of rain fell last year, and it is abundant now, that it has fallen more or less daily for this past month. The rain usually begins just after the harvest is got in, and prepares the earth for ploughing. This year the harvest has been a very good one, and well got in. The price of wheat has risen from 1s. to 5s. 6d. We have experienced no trouble from the natives, who make themselves useful in various ways, but they do not like to be long in a place. Their habits are not easily changed. We have several villages within a few miles of us. At Elizabeth, two miles from my house, there is a local court—where three, sometimes four, magistrates attend—a physician, chapel, stores, and the trades usually carried on in small country towns. A never-failing brook runs through the middle of the place, and there are several neat stone houses, two good hotels for the accommodation of travellers, &c. This place is fifty miles from Adelaide. In summer the roads are good, but in winter it is not so very easy to travel over them. Great improvements in the main roads of the colony have been made of late years, but, at present, all public works are at a standstill for want of hands to work at them. The copper mines have shared the same fate for the past half year, the people having gone to the gold-mines in Victoria, chiefly to Mount Alexander. About four hundred miners have returned, and gone to work at the Burra Mine again. Multitudes are now coming back from the gold diggings, both by sea from Melbourne, and overland 400 miles from Mount Alexander. Some have been very successful, but a far greater number have got blanks. Many people dislike the city and port of Adelaide to reside at, and speak evil of both. While attending the sittings at the legislative council, I resided in lodgings in the city of Adelaide from August 20th to the following Christmas, 1851, and had some experience of it. Both the city and port are far superior to what I expected to find them, the former, with its macadamized streets, and tolerable pavements, the number of good stone or brick houses, the extent and superiority of its shops and warehouses, as well

as many fine places of worship and public buildings. Its situation is beautiful for its prospect of the hills, and it is the best that could be fixed upon in the colony, as far as I have yet seen. There is now a good macadamized road from the city to the port, on which the traffic is immense, but the two-wheeled narrow-tired drays, which carry from two to three tons each, are enough to cut up the best roads in the world, unless as the streets of London are, "the Roman cut away."

The extent of accommodation for shipping; the great number of well-built stone warehouses, the extent of quay room, the mud-barge for deepening the river, and the steam-tug for taking the vessels down the creek to the sea, greatly improved, as well as the excellent inns which are numerous here. There are all sorts of shops and stores for the supply of provisions and shipping are to be found there; a complete workshop, and a patent slip for building up vessels to be repaired. The port is sadly plagued with malarial fever in summer. It is situated in a place surrounded with salt-water swamps, sometimes overflowed; yet it is said to be tolerably healthy. The sea-water is being banked out, and the low parts raised with gravel and sand. Every year will see it improved. Although my own health was not so good when residing in the city of Adelaide, it cannot be considered an unhealthy place, except from the want of drainage, and the uncleanly habits of the lower classes, who are huddled together in the narrow streets without ventilation, and who exhibit a total disregard of all sanitary regulations. In summer, occasionally, the dust is very annoying, and in winter the mud. Both the evils are likely to be remedied when the streets are all paved, proper sewerage made, and the projected water works are completed. The expense of fuel, the high rents of houses, and the brackishness of the water of the wells, (although the river Torrens furnishes the sweetest water, and that in abundance,) are complained of as great inconveniences. Provisions are cheap and plentiful, and many excellent hotels are open for the entertainment of strangers. On most of the public roads of the colony there are inns and public houses. Now, when I consider the infancy of the colony—about fifteen years old—I am greatly astonished at the progress which is made, and the extensive development of its resources.

The year 1851 was undoubtedly the most prosperous year of its history, and I was happy to have witnessed it myself. It was the result of substantial progress gene-

gally, although in some things I could perceive inflation and over-speculation. The population is about 70,000, the productions extraordinary, and the revenue large. With all this there was a restless spirit of progress at any rate, and a "go-a-head" spirit. There was also a manifest overplus of population in proportion to its available capital. The emigration of thousands of Germans, of whom we have about 7,000, without capital at first, but who make sure way by their industry, displaced those English and Irish who ought never to have come here, and who either would not or could not work, while the employers of labour did not possess extra capital to induce them to grapple from necessity with this useless class, who at last were spread over the colony as trampers, living in idleness, and receiving the customary hospitality of the farmers and country settlers—a mere incubus upon society. Many of the idle classes would not leave Adelaide, and there became the hotbed of sedition and discontent. The newspapers injudiciously mistook and compassionated their condition; petitions were presented to government and the legislative council, who soon made advances to employ all who would work on public roads at 3s. 6d. to 4s. per day or equal to it. Then it was found out that few came forward to embrace the offer; their scheme to raise the average price of labour beyond all reason, broke down, and no more was heard of it, except that it was found out that liberated convicts from the neighbouring colonies were the chief agitators! Even at that time I know that every person who was faithful and useful might have got employment in the country districts if he had gone there to seek it. Many of the trampers were offered high wages in the country, but refused to work at all, as was proved at our stations. No doubt reports of destitution in this colony would reach England, but only the idle, vicious, and incapable, were the subjects of it. Some of the sons and daughters of the middle classes in England have come here and failed to succeed. I have tried many of them, and, with every wish to do them service, I was obliged to give it up in despair. Such useless, delicate individuals, practically ignorant of everything useful in the common affairs of colonial business, and domestic life, ought never to have left their mother country.

Such was the state of things in this colony at Christmas last, when the gold-fields were laid open in Victoria, and the gold-fever raged throughout Australasia. A few months previously the gold fields were discovered in New

South Wales at Ophir, and a few of our colonists were there at the time, but the effect of the emigration of our male adults was not sensibly felt by us in that movement. The reports from Victoria induced the immediate departure of most of the idle, vicious, and useless portions of the people of Melbourne by sea; then the miners followed: and, by degrees, as favourable reports arrived, numbers of our useful and industrious people emigrated, until, probably, one-seventh of our colonists, many of whom were tolerably well-off shop-keepers, clerks, &c., &c., who took out of our banks several thousand gold sovereigns, to provide passage-money, and provisions at Victoria. A great number went overland direct to Mount Alexander, and took provisions and supplies enough with them to last them until their return back to their families. After all, a sufficient number of men have been left to us to get in the harvest in good condition, and to attend to the flocks and herds, as well as to agriculture, but on so compressed a scale, however, as to create no little inconvenience. There is, therefore, a fine field for useful people from England, who, in any numbers, are sure to do well in South Australia. There has been, during the past month or two, a very favourable reaction; a great number have returned from the diggings; every vessel from Melbourne is full of them; and many have come overland. There have been above £300,000 to £400,000 value of gold brought already to this colony as the fruits of the South Australian gold diggers' efforts, and, should the emigration from Europe be what it is probable to be, I am of opinion that we shall be greatly benefited by the Victoria gold discovery, while we shall avoid the horribly demoralizing influences of the gold-field localities, which are so fearful that no newspaper dare correctly describe them. I have no space left to report the working of the new legislative council, or to comment on the moral and religious condition of this colony, nor yet to show how well the colony is rising above the effects produced by the gold discoveries. I was in Adelaide a few weeks ago, and at the port all things were going on as formerly, the shops and warehouses serving customers as heretofore, and much activity indicated; therefore you must not believe the reports of the Melbourne papers, which represent this colony as utterly deserted and ruined. Our colonists so greatly prefer their homes here to Victoria, that all of them are moving back to us again.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Address of his Excellency Sir H. E. F. Young, Knight, to the Legislative Council of South Australia, on the 1st. of September 1852.

“Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council—

“In meeting you at the present ordinary Session for the despatch of public business, it is unnecessary, because of its notoriety, to enter minutely into a statement of the derangement of our social and financial condition, which originated, chiefly, in the discovery of valuable gold-fields in the neighbouring province of Victoria.

“2 For present purposes, it is sufficient to say, that the revenue of 1851—instead of attaining the usual rate of twenty per cent. increase over that of the previous year—fell short of the revenue of 1850. During the first six months of 1852, as compared with the corresponding period of 1851, the customs revenue was diminished by £16,559. The population of the colony, at the present time, is 63,106 : or somewhat less than the number of the inhabitants on the 1st. of January, 1851.

“The gold-fields of the adjacent province of Victoria still continue amazingly productive ; and a recent discovery of gold has been made within twenty-three miles of Adelaide. There is reason therefore, to expect a continual withdrawal of labour from its ordinary channels ; and, consequently, the prospect of raising our staples of grain, copper, and wool to their usual extent, is essentially precarious. The probable revenue of 1852 is estimated at £101,000, and the expenditure at about the same. The general revenue of 1853, calculated on the tariff of 1851 (which awaits the confirmation of her Majesty), is reckoned at £96,000, but this amount would be greatly lessened in the event of an exact assimilation of all the Australian tariffs being attained. A rigid economy is, therefore, indispensably necessary to preserve the efficiency of the public service within the limits of the present revenue ; and the estimate of expenditure in 1853—which will now be laid before you, amounting to about £95,000, is based strictly on that principle, although it is necessarily calculated to

meet the larger cost to the public entailed on it, chiefly in the departments of the police and post-office, by a rise in wages, in provisions, and in the charge for the maintenance of inland postal communication. I have also added to this estimate, provision for the establishment of Morse's Patent, or some other inexpensive system of Electric Telegraph between the city and port of Adelaide.

"The establishment of the police gold escort and the Assay-office have hitherto been maintained by the charge on gold, without burthening the general colonial revenue; and are, therefore, not included in the ordinary general estimates.

"It is obvious, from the preceding account of the revenue, that the surplus over expenditure is wholly inadequate to carry into effect urgent public improvements of unavoidable magnitude. The policy of capitalising whatever may be ascertained from time to time to be the surplus balance of revenue over expenditure, which I have so frequently suggested to the consideration of the legislature, is peculiarly appropriate to the present extraordinary times. In this way only is it feasible to execute reproductive works which have already received, or are open to receive, your sanction. I propose, therefore, to lay before you bills for raising loans for the following specific purposes—it being intended to enter on them as soon as the state of the labour market shall permit of contracts being obtained in the colony, or in the mother country, on reasonable terms:—£60,000 for a locomotive railway from the city to Port Adelaide; £100,000 for water works for Adelaide; £50,000 for bridges over the principal water-courses of the colony; £10,000 for a tramway for animal power between Port Adelaide and Gawler town. The charge on the public revenue for the interest and sinking fund of these loans, for a term of years, could not exceed £25,000 per annum; and as we may trust that our colonial revenue is already in a state of recovery, and as these works when completed, will, from their reproductive character, contribute to increase its amount, the council will probably be of opinion that such a yearly charge will prove no burthen on our financial resources.

"3. A return of the crown receipts and expenditure on account of the workings of such gold-fields as now are or may hereafter be discovered, will be kept separately from the general revenue and expenditure, but will be laid before you as soon as possible.

"4. It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that

the colonial bonded debt of £85,800, which I was directed by the lords commissioners of her Majesty's treasury, in 1848, to liquidate in annual instalments, has now been finally extinguished from the crown moiety of the land fund; and this last mentioned fund has moreover contributed aids to the emigration fund, from 1848 to the present time, of £89,558. The funds in England applicable to immigration, at the end of 1851, were £50,000; and further remittances of £20,000 have since been elected.

"5. In order to facilitate communication between Adelaide and the gold-fields of the province of Victoria, an overland route to Mount Alexander has been established under the protection of a police escort; wells have been opened; the line of country has been surveyed; a township marked off for sale; and a police-station formed. The premium offered in 1850 for the introduction of iron steam-boats of light draught of water, to navigate the river Murray, has not yet been claimed; but there is reason to expect that a company from England will soon enter on this project. Meanwhile, I have not hesitated to approve of a contract for the plying of a small steamer on the river in November next; and I rely with confidence on your making provision for this important service. I have also moved the lords of the treasury to send from England an iron steam-boat of the kind mentioned in the conditions of the colonial premium, to be paid for out of the crown moiety of the land fund, in the event of its appearing certain that no private company shall then have undertaken the steam navigation of the river Murray. In connection with this subject, I avail myself of the present occasion of stating to the council that the works and improvements at Port Elliot and the elbow of the Murray, at the Goolwa, which have been considered necessary for opening up new settlements to intending emigrants and for facilitating the transit of the commerce of the river to its sea mouth, are progressing satisfactorily. Their cost, including the tramway between Port Elliot and the Goolwa, according to the latest report and estimate of the supervisor of public works, which I have directed to be placed before you, will be within the original estimate and amount authorised by her Majesty's government to be appropriated to these purposes, viz., £21,000. Since the commencement of these improvements, the sales of crown lands in that locality have progressively increased in number and value. Port Elliot town lots sell readily at the minimum price of £80 an acre. Whatever difference of opinion may

formerly have existed between the executive and the legislature in reference to these works, I trust that the increased and urgent importance given to the navigation of the Murray to its sea mouth, by the discovery of the gold-fields of Victoria, which approach its borders, and the general recognition of the immense results eventually to arise to this colony from penetrating the interior of the Australian continent by this great river, will cause those differences to merge into a cordial unanimity and co-operation, in effecting whatever may be necessary to ensure to the object a speedy and successful issue.

"The convenience of the situation of Port Wakefield, in Gulf St. Vincent, as a shipping place for the adjacent northern districts, and especially for the export of the London Patent Copper Smelting Company, induced me to incur some outlay from the crown moiety of the land fund, in order to deepen the channel of the creek from the anchorage ground for shipping, at the head of the gulf: this expenditure has not exceeded £1,500. The tonnage inwards and outwards at Port Wakefield, in 1851, was in excess of 20,000 tons. The Port Wakefield town lots averaged at sales by public auction £30 per acre; and the water frontages were leased in like manner, at an average of £17 per acre for a term of years. In pursuance of the policy of increasing the number of outlets for produce to shipping places on the sea, I have, in addition to the intended works at the mouth of the Onkaparinga river, and the projected road to the north arm of the Port Adelaide Creek, authorised the construction, out of the crown moiety of the land fund, of some improvements at Port Augusta, in Spencer's Gulf, and at Willunga Cove, in Gulf St. Vincent. Port Augusta will be a great convenience to the recently-formed cattle and sheep stations north of Mount Remarkable, and will facilitate the further extension of settlements in that direction. Willunga Cove will save a long and heavy land-carriage to the farmers of that neighbourhood and of the adjacent agricultural districts.

"6. It is very gratifying to me to present to you my congratulations on the success of your last most important measure of legislation. The Bullion Act of the present year, by which the requisite increase of the currency of bank notes was regulated on the basis of present convertibility into assayed and stamped bullion, and of eventual convertibility, at no distant date, into coin of the realm, has up to the present time, in its practical results, almost compensated for the absence of a mint; has surpassed the expectations of the most sanguine; and has completely

vindicated the prudence and sagacity of the legislature of South Australia. The local government has also obtained a memorable justification for having yielded, after protracted and deliberate consultation, to the urgent unanimity on this subject, of all the intelligence of the community. The certain prospect of the creation of a royal mint has emboldened the banks to continue to exchange bank notes for lagsots at £3 11s. per ounce, notwithstanding the unexpected amount of their receipts of bullion; and the temporary Bullion Act, if not more speedily ended by a rise in the price of gold, may be satisfactorily carried on until by efflux of the time limited by the Act No. 1 of 1852, it will expire on the 28th January next. The inter-colonial exchanges have continued at their customary rates during the existence of the Bullion Act; and neither the currency, the property, nor the merchandise of the colony has sustained depreciation.

The opening up of the overland route, and the establishment of the Assay-office, have attracted to the colony upwards of a million of gold, the produce of the enterprise and industry of South Australians at Mount Alexander. Thus, having fully and fairly participated in the gold harvest of the adjacent province, the community is placed in a condition to use the local Assay-office so as to secure for the future the full benefits of whatever gold may be either raised in South Australia, or conveyed to it by South Australians.

"7. In addition to the loan bills, to which allusion has already been made, it will be my duty to invite your consideration of several legislative measures of importance. It has been a great satisfaction to me to have recently called into existence, at the instance of the citizens, the act which provides an elective and municipal form of government for the city of Adelaide; and I would now suggest your resumption of the bill to create self-government in the rural districts by elective local councils. I also recommended a bill to amend the act relating to the registration of deeds; and, lastly, there will be submitted for your consideration, a bill for the prevention of the spread of the disease of scab in sheep. The increased size of the flocks—the reduced number of shepherds—are hazardous expedients to which the pastoral interests may be compelled to resort; and when we regard the certainty that the spread of disease will thereby be promoted, the threatened danger to our export of wool, and to the supply of provisions to an increasing population, renders

it obvious that very stringent and summary measures of precaution and remedy are imperatively required.

"8. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the legislative council, I desire to renew to you an assurance of the sincerity of which you have now had four years' experience, that you may rely on my cordial and zealous co-operation, in whatever measures shall best conduce, under God's blessing, to the advancement and permanent welfare of the colony.

"H. E. F. YOUNG."

"September 1, 1852."

The following letter, from Sir H. E. F. Young to Mr. HULL, who is endeavouring to colonize lands on the Murray, requires no comment.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, ADELAIDE. *June 28, 1852.*

"DEAR SIR.—I have perused your letter book, and the correspondence opened by you with many of the residents in this colony with a view of making known to your friends and other capitalists in England (whither you are now about to return), what are the rates of interest procurable on investments in landed freehold estates in South Australia; and more especially what are the prospects of investments in these tracts of land situated near the outlet of the river Murray to the Southern Ocean, at Port Elliot, in Encounter Bay."

"On the general question, I concur with your numerous correspondents that the rate of interest on landed investments, judiciously selected, cannot, in ordinary times, be estimated at less than 10 per cent. per annum; supposing always that the collections of interest are made by capitalists resident in the colony, or by honest and active agents. Ordinary times do not, however, now prevail, nor have they prevailed in this colony since October, 1851; the labour market then became, and still is, disturbed by the discovery of gold-fields in the neighbouring province of Victoria. The gains there are so tempting, although frequently delusive, that they irresistibly draw labourers from the more moderate but certain wages obtainable in pastoral, agricultural, and copper-mining pursuits. Yet, ultimately, and probably very quickly, a redundancy of

* Port Elliot. Lat. 35deg. 32min. 45sec. S., long. 138deg. 43min. 15sec. E.

labour will prevail at the gold-fields, and the surplus will serve to recruit more largely than ever the labour market of this colony. The subsistence of the gold diggers, and investments for their gains, must cause a demand for land and its products which will increase in proportion to the numbers and success of the gold-seeking population. Hence, as copper and wool will retain their uses, and farm produce will continue to be of primary necessity, it will not only not supersede these articles, but it will give balanced value to the lands which yield them, and will stimulate their increased production.

"On the more limited question of the advantage of investing capital in South Australia, in the purchase of Crown lands near the river Murray and Port Elliot, I would observe that the letter of the Honourable Mr. Gwynne, M.L.C., of the 20th instant, which forms part of the correspondence now under my notice, puts this portion of the subject in its most appropriate light, and one which has my entire concurrence. His concise but pregnant statement is, that the river Murray is navigable for more than a thousand miles, and that its only practicable sea-mouth being at Port Elliot—to it, or to Port Adelaide, or to both, as it might more accurately be said, although in different proportions, there must arise from this great inland navigation a vast amount of trade.

"That this extensive navigability of the river Murray should have remained so long unserviceable to the continent of Australia, and especially to South Australia, within whose territory flow so many hundred miles of its course to its final exit on the Southern Ocean, requires some explanation to persons ignorant perhaps, of the past and present condition of this infant colony; and figuring only to their own imagination how labour, wealth, art, science, and enterprise, teeming in Great Britain, would, without loss of time, have been engaged in improving this gigantic "water privilege." The memorable and important discovery of the river Murray by Sturt, and the arduous and courageous exploration of it which his enterprise first carried to the ocean, and his fortitude retraced, despite the uncertainty of ever safely returning through a wilderness peopled with unknown tribes, no doubt gave a powerful incitement to the subsequent colonization of South Australia.

"In the early days, however, of the plantation of this colony, the impracticability of the sea-mouth of the river Murray; its shifting and narrow channel; its fearful surf

and heavy rollers ; its unmitigated exposure to the swell of the great Southern Ocean ; the disappointments and fatal accidents which attended all attempts, save one, to enter it from the sea ; the ignorance then felt of the power and dispositions of the aborigines on its banks ; the supposed insufficient depths of water through Lake Alexandria ; the absence in those days of steamers of light draught of water adapted to the navigation of rivers ; the then scanty number of colonists, who found for their immediate purposes a more than sufficient extent of agricultural and grazing land adjacent to Port Adelaide in Gulf St. Vincent ; all these causes sufficed to render the solitary instance of the success of Captain Pullen, in 1841 (in entering the river from the sea, in a little cutter of thirty tons, which has never made its exit again), unproductive of further efforts in South Australia at that time, to penetrate the interior of New Holland from the sea by the navigation of the Murray. Nor was this great object, whilst left unachieved for all practical purposes by enterprise from hence, likely to engage the attention of the less interested colonists of New South Wales. Indeed, the squatters on the Australian continent—those useful pioneers of colonization—were otherwise profitably employed. The occupation of the new country, which led to the settlement of Port Phillip in 1837, and of Twofold Bay in 1839, had been carried in 1840, three hundred miles to the north beyond and behind Moreton Bay, whilst to the south and west, sheep and cattle stations extended beyond Port Phillip, to the very confines of South Australia ; thus colonisation and the attendant investments of commercial speculation, were chiefly directed to these outlets to the sea along the eastern side of the ridge of mountains parallel to the Pacific, between the 26th deg. and 32nd deg. of latitude.

“ An inspection of the map of New Holland will show that the streams which rise from the eastern side of this mountain ridge (aback of Sydney), have but comparatively a short course to the sea ; moreover, from this side of the ridge the descent to the sea is steep and difficult. The ports north of Sydney are Moreton Bay, the Clarence river, and Port Macquarie ; south of Sydney, Bateman's Bay, Twofold Bay, Port Phillip, and Portland Bay. Whilst, therefore, the remote interior on the opposite or western side of this mountain ridge, can have no other exit to the sea eastward than the above-mentioned ports, accessible only by a long, expensive, and difficult land carriage, it is

obvious that the export of wool could not, beyond certain limits of distance, be continued with profit, because of the difficulty and cost of transport to its place of shipment ; and this limit to the wool-producing region becomes practically the terminus of the squatter's enterprise--the boundary of the location of Europeans ; the end of the war on the wilderness, because the beginning of a solitude untenanted by civilised man. But when we again revert to the map, and view the western side of this mountain ridge, it is at once perceived that there is a remedy for this arrest of the progress of settlement. The waters of the Darling river, after a long circuitous course, unite themselves with the river Murray, and reinforced with other tributaries, maintain for the benefit of all the country on the west side of the mountains, a continuous course to the Southern Ocean, near Port Elliot. The great trade, then, which is likely to result from the steam navigation of the river Murray, comprises all that present and future pastoral produce on the western side of the mountain ridge aback of Sydney, which it will be difficult and costly to send for shipment to the enumerated ports on the coast line of New South Wales and Port Phillip.

" This great tract reaches up to the fertile and extensive valley of the Murrumbidgee, which Mr. Edward Scott, of Moorunde, sub-protector of the aborigines, in a published report, states to be admirably adapted not only to the feeding of cattle and sheep, but also to the raising of grain and other agricultural produce. Access to it by steamers of light draught of water, I believe, on the authority of others, to be certain ; and it appears probable, from the published account of Mr. Gerstaecker, that even the Hume or Upper Murray river at Albury, beyond the Mount Alexander gold district, may be made practicable for small steamers. In this event, Mr. Gwynne's before quoted estimate of 1,000 miles of navigable waters, will fall short of the reality ; but even should this estimate, on the other hand, prove excessive, and that of Mr. Gerstaecker still more so, I am, at least, enabled to bear personal testimony that, in September and October, 1850, the minimum depth of water, throughout an unimpeded course, from the junction of the rivers Darling and Murray to the Port Elliot terminus, at the Goolwa tramway, a distance not short of 600 miles, was, in the channel, not less than eight feet.

" Beyond the confines of South Australia, upwards, as far as this junction of the rivers, the prospect of travel

will, it appears to me, be limited to the carriage of supplies to the pastoral stations, and to the transport of their wool and tallow. Trade will be further greatly stimulated by the supplies to and from the gold-fields of Mount Alexander, to which, and probably other auriferous districts, the most convenient route is by the river Murray; whilst Melbourne, the seaport of this gold region, is accessible by sea more quickly from Port Elliot (the support of the Murray) in Encounter Bay, than from any other safe port in South Australia.

"A good arable soil, in a state fit for present cultivation, in the remote parts of the basin of the Murray, if it is to be found at all, must, I think, be looked for, on the report of Mr. F. Scott, only in the valley of the Murrumbidgee. The extent, however, of arable land, within the limits of South Australia, contiguous to Port Elliot, or to the navigable waters of the river Murray, now open to purchase at public auction from the Crown, at the upset price of £1. per acre, is 735.651 acres. The proceeds of the sale of these lands are applicable, by Act of Parliament, to the extent of nearly one moiety of the whole, to the introduction of emigrants into the colony. These lands are indicated on the annexed tracing from the office of the Surveyor-General.

"The settlement of this tract of land by persons accustomed to farming pursuits, possessed of some little pecuniary means, and endowed with the still more valuable capital of health, youth, energy, sobriety, and industry, would, in my opinion, with the certain prospect of the steam navigation of the river Murray, be equivalent to the creation of a new colony. Subtracting nothing from, but reacting favourably on, the prosperity and value of land around the older districts dependent on Ports Adelaide and Wakefield, in Gulf St. Vincent, yet having the difficulties of the first locations lessened by proximity to these thriving districts, it seems to me that a population placed on this tract of land would eventually increase the resources and extend the capabilities of the province of South Australia to a degree undreamt of by those who have hitherto thought but little of districts not dependent on Port Adelaide.

"With respect to Port Elliot, the criticisms which have been passed, in doubt of its capaciousness and safety, are such only as new and untried ports frequently receive until they have become better known. Until this experience shall have been gained, it is satisfactory to know that Captain Lipson, R.N., the naval officer of the province,

after frequent visits to it and inquiries respecting its character, reports that two vessels of 500 to 1000 tons may lie at the existing moorings, which are in six and four fathoms of water, respectively, sufficiently sheltered by the breakwater to be considered in a safe anchorage; that after the port is better known, five or six large ships may anchor there; and that it will probably prove safe to extend the anchorage for large ships much further out. A remarkable verification of this last expressed opinion has recently been furnished to Captain Lipson, in the case of the *Ameer*, a vessel of 400 tons, which, in a gale of wind blowing in on the shore, came to anchor outside of the moorings, and beyond the shelter of the breakwater, where she remained safely, though greatly underhanded, both as to the number and efficiency of her crew. Ever since the colony has been founded, coasters have been in the habit of going in and out of Port Elliot at all seasons of the year, whenever freights have offered; and no accident has ever happened, or has any vessel ever been driven on shore, although furnished, as they generally are, with very inferior ground tackle. The holding ground, then, being thus proved to be so good, even outside of the moorings, it is only necessary to place additional moorings beyond the site of the present ones, whenever the exigencies of commerce may require this accommodation. The trade of Port Elliot will, however, probably for a long while, in connection with the river Murray, not require more tonnage than can, at any one time, at present safely find anchorage there. Of the readiness with which mails may be landed at Port Elliot, as compared with mails to be landed (especially in winter time) in Gulf St. Vincent, and of the great use to vessels bound to Port Elliot of the Sturt Light on Cape Willoughby, Kangaroo Island, it is only necessary that I should refer you to Captain Lipson's report, published in the *Government Gazette* of the 10th February last.*

"I may add, in conclusion, that the enterprising owner of the steamer of light draught of water, who purposes to enter the sea-mouth of the Murray river in November next, there to ply under contract for twelve trips at least, to the Darling river from the Goolwa, has my best wishes for the success of this hazardous mode of reaching the river, which will no doubt be successful, provided a favour:

* Sturt Light, lat 35 deg. 49 min. 20 sec. S., long. 138 deg. 42 min. 15 sec. E. Port Elliot bears N 65 deg. E., distance 29 miles. The light is a revolving one, with a total elevation of 241 feet, and is visible eight leagues.

able moment for entering is patiently waited for and opportunely seized. Nevertheless, in common with Captain Sturt, the first discoverer of the Murray, and with Captain Pullen, R.N., the first surveyor of its sea-mouth, I think the elbow of the Murray, at the Goolwa, connected with Encounter Bay, as is now in progress by a tramway from Port Elliot, affords the best and most convenient outlet of the Murray river to the south ocean.

"The information you have collected for the guidance of capitalists in England desirous of purchasing land in the localities adverted to in this letter, might no doubt easily have received my corroboration in a more concise form, by a simple reference to my official papers, already published, on the subject. Unwilling, however, that the great object of opening Port Elliot as a seaport for the river Murray should be exposed to the detriment of having its importance misunderstood, owing to what may seem a fastidious objection to the repetition of information already on record, I have been led by a sense of public duty to write this long letter, which I trust may satisfy the inquiries of your friends in England.

"I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

"H. E. F. YOUNG."

"Mr. Hull, Doran's Hotel, Adelaide."

POSTSCRIPT.

In the preceding pages we have endeavoured to delineate the geographical position, progress, and capabilities of the different settlements of Australasia. The passing of the act (13 and 14 Vic. c. 59,) giving a new constitution, and granting additional privileges to the various provinces, the disco-

very of extensive Gold Fields, and the establishment of ocean steam communication, are events of such unprecedented importance, and productive of such extraordinary changes in the commercial world, that we find it necessary to append the following authenticated documents, illustrating the changes that have taken place, and giving an idea of the future prospects of this most important portion of the possessions of the British Empire.

We have extracted freely from both the *South Australian Chronicle and Colonial Record*, and the *Australian and New Zealand Gazette*, two valuable journals, published in London, furnishing every information respecting our south-eastern colonies, and are greatly indebted to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and the *Melbourne Argus* for our latest intelligence. The value of the documents selected from their columns will be a sufficient excuse for our reprinting them. The Official Address of SIR H. E. YOUNG, Governor of South Australia, the letter of G. F. ANGUS, Esq., and the Report from the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, by George Elder, Esq., of the firm of A. L. Elder, and Co., are particularly important, as emanating from personal attention, and an anxiety to furnish accurate information to the British public.

A P P E N D I X.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER GOVERNMENT OF HER MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

5th August, 1850.

WHEREAS by an act passed in the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, intituled "An Act for the Government of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land," it was enacted, that there should be within the colony of New South Wales a legislative council, to consist of thirty-six members, and that twelve of the members of the said council should from time to time, in the manner therein mentioned, be elected by the inhabitants of the said colony; and whereas an act was passed in the eighth year of the reign of her Majesty, intituled "An Act to clear up Doubts as to the Regulation and Audit of the Accounts of the Customs, in New South Wales," and another act was passed in the same year, intituled "An act to explain and amend the Act for the Government of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land:" And whereas by an act passed in the ninth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, intituled "An Act to provide for the Administration of Justice in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, and for the more effectual Government thereof, and for other Purposes relating thereto," His said Majesty, his heirs and Successors, were empowered to appoint in Van Dieman's Land a legislative council, to consist of such persons resident in the said colony, not exceeding fifteen nor less than ten, as his Majesty, his heirs and successors, should be pleased to nominate: And whereas the provisions of the last-mentioned act, so far as

respects the council of Van Dieman's Land, have been made permanent by the said act of the sixth year of her Majesty : And whereas by an act passed in the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, intituled "An Act to provide for the better Government of South Australia," her Majesty is empowered, in manner therein mentioned, to constitute within the said colony of South Australia a legislative council, consisting of the governor and seven other persons at the least : And whereas by an act passed in the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty George the Fourth, intituled "An Act to provide until the Thirty-first Day of December One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four for the Government of His Majesty's Settlements in Western Australia on the Western Coast of New Holland," his said Majesty, his heirs and successors, with the advice of his or their privy council, were empowered to make, ordain, and (subject to such conditions and restrictions as to him or them should seem meet) to authorize and empower any three or more persons resident and being within the said settlements to make, ordain, and constitute, laws, institutions, and ordinances for the peace, order, and good government of his Majesty's subjects and others within the said Settlements : And whereas the last mentioned act has been from time to time continued, and ultimately, by an act of the tenth year of her Majesty, was continued until the Thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, and to the end of the then next session of Parliament.

District of Port Philip to form a separate Colony, to be known as the Colony of Victoria.

And whereas it is expedient that the district of Port Philip, now part of the colony of New South Wales, should be erected into a separate colony, and that further provision should be made for the government of her Majesty's Australian colonies : Be it enacted, therefore, by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that after such provisions as herein-after mentioned shall have been made by the governor and council of New South Wales, and upon the issuing of the writs for the first election in pursuance thereof, as herein-after mentioned, the territories now comprised within the said district of Port Philip, including

the town of Melbourne, and bounded on the north and north-east by a straight line drawn from Cape How to the nearest source of the River Murray, and thence by the course of that river to the eastern boundary of the colony of South Australia, shall be separated from the colony of New South Wales, and shall cease to return members to the legislative council of such colony, and shall be erected into and thenceforth form a separate colony, to be known and designated as the colony of Victoria.

The number of Legislative Council of New South Wales may be varied. A separate Legislative Council for the Colony of Victoria.

II. And be it enacted, that the number of members of which, after such separation as aforesaid, the legislative council of the colony of New South Wales shall consist, shall, in manner hereinafter mentioned, be determined by the governor and council of New South Wales; and there shall be within and for the colony of Victoria a separate legislative council, to consist of such number of members as shall in like manner be determined by the said governor and council; and such number of the members of the legislative council of each of the said colonies respectively as is equal to one third part of the whole number of members of such council, or, if such whole number be not exactly divisible by three, one third of the next greater number which is divisible by three, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining members of the council of each of the said colonies shall be elected by the inhabitants of such colony.

Governor and Council of New South Wales to establish Electoral Districts, &c.

III. And be it enacted, that after the proclamation of this act in the colony of New South Wales it shall be lawful for the governor and legislative council of such colony, by an act to be for that purpose made and enacted in the manner and subject to the conditions now by law required in respect of acts made and enacted by the said governor and council; to determine the number of members of which after such separation as aforesaid of the said district of Port Philip therefrom, the legislative council of the colony of New South Wales shall consist, and also to determine the number of members of which the legislative

council of the said colony of Victoria shall consist, and also to make all necessary provisions for dividing the territories which after such separation will be comprised within the colony of New South Wales into convenient electoral districts, or for continuing such of the existing electoral districts as shall be deemed convenient, and for appointing and declaring the number of members of the council of the colony of New South Wales after such separation to be elected for each such district, and for dividing the territories to be comprised in the colony of Victoria into convenient electoral districts, and for appointing and declaring the number of members of the council of the colony of Victoria to be elected for each such district, and for the compilation and revision of lists of all persons qualified to vote at the elections to be holden within the several districts of the said colonies, respectively, and for the appointing of returning officers, and for the issuing, executing, and returning of the necessary writs for such elections, and for taking the poll thereat, and for determining the validity of all disputed returns, and otherwise for ensuring the orderly, effective, and impartial conduct of such elections; provided that the writs to be issued for the first election of members of the legislative council of the colony of Victoria shall be issued by the governor of New South Wales or by such person as her Majesty for that purpose, by warrant under her royal sign manual, countersigned by one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state, shall appoint.

Qualification of Voters at Elections for Members of the Legislative Council.

IV. And be it enacted, that every man of the age of twenty-one years, being a natural-born or naturalized subject of her Majesty, or legally made a denizen of New South Wales, and having a freehold estate in possession situate within the district for which his vote is to be given, of the clear value of one hundred pounds sterling money above all charges and incumbrances in any way affecting the same, of or to which he has been seised or entitled, either at law or in equity, for at least six calendar months next before the date of the writ of such election, or in case a registration of electors shall be established next before the last registration of electors, or, being a householder within such district occupying a dwelling house of the clear annual value of ten pounds sterling money, and

having resided therein six calendar months next before such writ or registration as aforesaid, or holding at the date of such writ or at the time of such registration a licence to depasture lauds within the district for which his vote is to be given from the government of New South Wales, or having a leasehold estate in possession situate within such district of the value of ten pounds sterling money per annum, held upon a lease which at the date of such writ or at the time of registration has not less than three years to run, shall be entitled to vote at the election of a member of the legislative council: Provided always, that no man shall be entitled to vote who has been attainted or convicted of treason, felony, or other infamous offence in any part of her Majesty's dominions, unless he have received a free pardon or one conditional on not leaving the colony for such offence, or have undergone the sentence passed on him for such offence; and provided also, that no man shall be entitled to vote unless at the time of such election or registration of electors (as the case may be) he shall have paid up all rates and taxes which shall have become payable by him as owner or leaseholder in respect of such estate, or as occupier in respect of such occupancy, or as the holder of a licence in respect of such licence, except such as shall have become payable during three calendar months next before such election or registration respectively.

Authority of the Governor and Council of New South Wales over colony of Victoria to cease.

V. And be it enacted, that upon the issuing of such writs for the first election of members of the legislative council of the said colony of Victoria such colony shall be deemed to be established, and the legislative authority of the governor and council of New South Wales, and the powers of such governor, over and in respect of the territories comprised in the said colony of Victoria and the revenues thereof, shall cease.

Provisions of three first recited Acts to remain applicable to New South Wales, after separation of colony of Victoria.

VI. And be it enacted, that, subject to the provisions herein contained, the provisions of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, as explained and amended by the said acts of the eighth year

of her Majesty, shall remain applicable to the said colony of New South Wales after such separation as aforesaid, and to the governor and legislative council thereof.

Legislative Councils may be established in Van Dieman's Land and South Australia.

VII. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the legislatures now by law established within the colonies of Van Dieman's Land and South Australia respectively, by laws or ordinances to be for that purpose made and enacted in the manner and subject to the conditions now by law required in respect of laws and ordinances made by such legislatures, to establish within the said colonies of Van Dieman's Land and South Australia respectively a legislative council, to consist of such number of members, not exceeding twenty-four, as they shall think fit; and that such number of the members of each council so to be established as is equal to one-third part of the whole number of members of such council, or if such whole number be not exactly divisible by three such number as is next greater than one-third of the whole number, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining members of such council shall be elected by the inhabitants of the colony in which such council shall be established; and it shall be lawful for such legislatures respectively, by such laws or ordinances as aforesaid, to make all necessary provisions for dividing the said colony of Van Dieman's Land and the said colony of South Australia into convenient electoral districts, and for appointing and declaring the number of members of council to be elected for each such district, and for the compilation and revision of lists of all persons qualified to vote at the elections to be holden within such districts, and for the appointing of returning officers, and for the issuing, executing, and returning of the necessary writs for such elections, and for taking the poll thereat, and for determining the validity of all disputed returns, and otherwise for ensuring the orderly, effective, and impartial conduct of such elections.

Present Councils in Van Dieman's Land and South Australia to cease on the issue of the first Writs for the new Councils.

VIII. And be it enacted, that immediately after the issue of the writs for the first election of members of a

legislative council for Van Diemen's Land established by law or ordinance under the powers herein contained, such of the provisions of the acts herein recited or referred to, or any of them, as relate to the constitution, appointment, and powers of a council in Van Diemen's Land, shall be repealed; and immediately after the issue of the writs for the first election of members of a legislative council for South Australia established by law or ordinance under the powers herein contained, such of the provisions of the secondly herein recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her present Majesty as relate to the constitution, appointment, and powers of a council in South Australia shall be repealed.

A Legislative Council may be established in Western Australia.

IX. And be it enacted, that upon the presentation of a petition signed by not less than one-third in number of the householders within the colony of Western Australia, praying that a legislative council according to the provisions of this act be established within such colony, and that provision be made for charging upon the revenues of such colony all such part of the expenses of the civil establishment thereof as may have been previously defrayed by parliamentary grants, it shall be lawful for the persons authorized and empowered to make, ordain, and establish laws and ordinances for the government of the said colony, by any law or ordinance to be made for that purpose, subject to the conditions and restrictions to which laws and ordinances made by such persons are now subject, to establish a legislative council within such colony, to consist of such number of members as they shall think fit, and such number of the members of such council as is equal to one-third part of the whole number of members of such council, or if such number be not exactly divisible by three, one-third of the next greater number which is divisible by three, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining members of the council shall be elected by the inhabitants of the said colony; and it shall be lawful for such persons as aforesaid, by such law or ordinance as aforesaid, to make all necessary provisions for dividing Western Australia into convenient electoral districts and for appointing and declaring the number of members of council to be elected for each such district, and for the compilation and revision of lists of all persons qualified to vote at the elections to be holden within such districts,

and for the appointing of returning officers, and for the issuing, executing, and returning of the necessary writs for such elections, and for taking the poll thereat, and for determining the validity of all disputed returns, and otherwise ensuring the orderly, effective, and impartial conduct of such elections; provided that no law or ordinance establishing such legislative council within the said colony of Western Australia shall have any force or effect unless provision be thereby made for permanently granting to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, out of the revenues of the said colony, towards defraying such of the expenses of the establishments of the said colony as may have been previously defrayed in whole or in part by parliamentary grants, a yearly sum not less in amount than the sum which may have been lastly before the making of such law or ordinance authorized by Parliament to be issued and applied out of the aids or supplies granted by Parliament to defray the charge for one year of the said colony, and for raising the yearly sum so granted by means of sufficient taxes, duties, rates, or imposts to be levied on her Majesty's subjects within such colony.

Provisions of 10 G. 4. c. 22. to continue in force till the issue of the first Writs for the Council in Western Australia.

X. And be it enacted, that the said recited act of the tenth year of the reign of King George the Fourth shall be revived and continue in force until the issue of the writs for the first election of members of the legislative council of the said colony of Western Australia, and from and after the issuing of such writs such act shall be repealed; and all laws, institutions, and ordinances made, ordained, and established, and all other acts done, in the said colony of Western Australia, by the persons authorized and empowered, or who if the said recited act had not expired would have been authorized and empowered, in that behalf, shall be and be deemed to have been as valid and effectual as if this act had passed before the expiration of the said recited act.

Power to alter Electoral Districts, and number of Members, &c.

XI. And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for the governor and legislative council of the colony of New South Wales, after the separation of the colony of Victoria therefrom, and also for the governors and legislative

councils of the said colonies of Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia respectively, after the establishment of legislative councils therein under this act, from time to time by any act or acts to establish new electoral districts in any parts of the said colonies respectively, and to alter the divisions and extent of the electoral districts of the said colonies, and to alter and appoint the number of members of council to be chosen by the said districts, and to increase the whole number of members of such legislative councils respectively, and to alter and regulate the appointment of returning officers, and make provision in such manner as they may deem expedient for the issue and return of writs for the election of members to serve in such legislative councils respectively, and the time and place for holding such elections: Provided always, that where the whole number of members of council shall be increased such number of the additional councillors as is equal to one-third part of the whole increase, or if such whole increase shall not be exactly divisible by three such number as is next greater than one-third of the whole increase, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining additional members of council shall be elected by the inhabitants of the colony.

Certain Provisions of 5 & 6 Vict. c 76. and 7 & 8 Vict. c. 74. to apply to Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia.

XII And be it enacted, that all the provisions herein contained concerning the qualification and disqualification of electors in New South Wales, and subject to the provisions herein contained, all the provisions of the said firstly recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, as explained and amended by the secondly-recited act of the eighth year of her Majesty, concerning the election of the elective members of the legislative council of New South Wales; the qualification and disqualification of elective members; the appointment of the non-elective members of such council, and the tenure of their seats, and their holding of offices: the resignation of members of such council, and the causes by which their seats may be vacated; the authority of the governor upon and in respect of vacancies; the hearing and determination of questions respecting vacancies; the places and times of holding such council; the duration, prorogation, and dissolution thereof; the election, allowance, and disallowance of the

Speaker ; the number or portion of members competent to the despatch of Business ; the decision of questions ; the oath or affirmation to be taken or made and subscribed, and the declaration of qualification to be made, by members ; the preparation, adoption, approval, and confirmation or disallowance of standing rules and orders ; the issue of writs for elections upon vacancies and upon a dissolution or other determination of such council ; the proposal of drafts of laws and amendments to such council ; the giving and withholding of her Majesty's assent to bills, and the reservation of bills for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon, and the bills so reserved ; the instructions to be conveyed to the governor for his guidance in relation to the matters aforesaid ; and the disallowance of bills by her Majesty, shall apply to and be in force in the colony of Victoria, and in each of the said colonies of Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, in which a legislative council shall be established under this act, as if all such provisions were here repeated, the name of such respective colony being substituted for the name of the colony of New South Wales.

Repeal of so much of 5 and 6 Victoria c. 76. as requires all Bills altering Judges' salaries to be reserved.

XIII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That so much of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty as requires that all bills altering the salaries of judges, or any of them, shall in every case be reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon, shall not apply to or be in force in the colonies of Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, or any of them, and after the establishment of the said colony of Victoria shall be repealed.

Governors and Legislative Councils of Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia authorized to make Laws.

XIV. And be it enacted, That the governors of the said colonies of Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, respectively, with the advice and consent of the legislative councils to be established in the said colonies under this act, shall have authority to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of the

said colonies respectively, and, with the deductions and subject to the provisions herein contained, by such laws to appropriate to the public service within the said colonies respectively the whole of her Majesty's revenue within such colonies arising from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts levied on her Majesty's subjects within such colonies :

Appropriation of Taxes and Issue of Public Money.

Provided always, that no such law shall be repugnant to the law of England, or interfere in any manner with the sale or other appropriation of the lands belonging to the Crown within any of the said colonies, or with the revenue thence arising ; and that it shall not be lawful for any such council to pass, or for any such governor to assent to, any bill appropriating to the public service any sums or sum of money, unless the governor, on her Majesty's behalf, shall first have recommended to the council to make provision for the specific public service towards which such money is to be appropriated : and that no part of her Majesty's revenue in any of the said colonies arising from the sources aforesaid shall be issued, or shall be made by any such law issuable, except in pursuance of warrants under the hand of the governor of the colony, directed to the public treasurer thereof.

Revenues to be charged with Expenses of Collection and Management.

XV. And be it enacted, That the revenues of the said colonies of Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia respectively shall be permanently charged with all the costs, charges, and expenses incident to the collection, management, and receipt thereof, such costs, charges, and expenses of duties of import and export to be regulated and audited in such manner as shall be directed by the commissioners of her Majesty's treasury of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and all such costs, charges, and expenses of other branches of the said revenue which are subject to be appropriated by the governors and councils of such colonies being subject to be regulated and audited in such manner as shall be directed by laws of such governors and councils.

Provisions of 5 and 6 Victoria, c. 76, concerning Grants for Civil and Judicial Services repealed.

XVI. And be it enacted, That after the establishment o

the said colony of Victoria so much of the said firstly-re-cited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty as makes payable to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, out of the revenue fund of the said colony of New South Wales, the sums therein mentioned for defraying the expenses of the services and purposes named in the schedules to the said act, and the provisions concerning the appropriation of such sums, shall be repealed.

Grants for Civil and Judicial Services.

XVII. And be it enacted, That there shall be payable to her Majesty, every year, out of the revenue funds arising from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts levied within the said colony of New South Wales after the establishment of the colony of Victoria, the several sums mentioned in the schedule (A) to this act; and out of the like revenue fund levied within the said colony of Victoria after the establishment thereof, the several sums mentioned in the schedule (B) to this act; and out of the like revenue fund levied within the colony of Van Dieman's Land after the establishment of a legislative council therein under this act, the several sums mentioned in the schedule (C) to this act; and out of the like revenue fund levied within the colony of South Australia after the establishment of a legislative council therein under this act, the several sums mentioned in the schedule (D) to this act; such several payments to be made for defraying the expenses of the services and purposes mentioned in the said schedules respectively, and the said several sums to be issued by the treasurers of the said colonies respectively in discharge of such warrants as shall be from time to time directed to them under the hands and seals of the governors of such colonies; and the said treasurers shall account to her Majesty for the same through the commissioners of her Majesty's treasury of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in such manner and form as her Majesty shall be graciously pleased to direct.

How the Appropriation of Sums granted may be levied.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the governors and legislative councils of the said colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, and South Australia respectively, by any act or acts, to alter all or any of the sums mentioned in the said schedules

respectively, and the appropriation of such sums to the services and purposes therein mentioned, but every bill which shall be passed by the council in any of the said colonies altering the salary of the governor, or altering the sums mentioned in the third part of any of the said schedules (A), (B), and (C), shall be reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon, and until and subject to such alteration by act or acts as aforesaid, the salaries of the governors and judges shall be, those respectively set against their several offices in the first parts of the said several schedules; and accounts in detail of the expenditure of the several sums for the time being appropriated under this act, or such act or acts as aforesaid of the governor and legislative council, to the several services and purposes mentioned in the said schedules, shall be laid before the legislative councils of such colonies respectively within thirty days next after the beginning of the session after such expenditure shall have been made: Provided always, that it shall not be lawful for the governor and legislative council of any of the said colonies, by any such act as aforesaid, to make any diminution in the salary of any judge to take effect during the continuance in office of any person being such judge at the time of the passing of such act; and provided also, that it shall be lawful for the governors of the said colonies respectively (either before or after such sums have been altered by act or acts of the governor and legislative council as aforesaid) to alter from time to time the sums appropriated to any of the services and purposes mentioned in the first parts of the said schedules, except the salaries of the governors and judges, and also the sums appropriated to any of the services and purposes mentioned in the second parts of the said schedules, but such governors respectively shall not by such alteration increase the total amount for the time being appropriated under this act, or such act or acts of the governor and legislative council, to the services and purposes mentioned in either of such parts of the said schedules, nor contravene any provision made by act or acts of the governor and legislative council for the permanent appropriation of any sum to any of such services and purposes.

Governors to intimate intended Appropriation.

XIX. And be it enacted, That within thirty days after the beginning of the first session in each year of the legislative

councils of the said colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, and South Australia, the governors of such colonies respectively shall make known by message to such legislative councils the amount of the sums intended to be appropriated out of the sums applicable thereto to the several services and purposes named in the second parts of the said several schedules for the service of the year then next ensuing.

5th and 6th Victoria, c. 76, s. 41.

XX. And whereas by the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty it was enacted, that it should be lawful for the governors, by letters patent under the great seal of the colony of New South Wales, to incorporate the inhabitants of every county within the said colony, or of such parts of counties or other divisions as to him should seem fit, to form districts for the purposes of that act, and by such letters patent to establish a council in every such district for the local government thereof, subject to certain provisions in the same act contained :

Certain Charters establishing District Councils avoided, and certain others authorized to be revoked on Petition.

Be it enacted, That where under any letters patent issued under the provision lastly herein-before recited there has not been before the proclamation of this act in the said colony of New South Wales any election of councillors for the district formed by such letters patent, such letters patent shall from and after such proclamation be void ; and where before such proclamation there has been an election of councillors for the district formed by any such letters patent, it shall be lawful for the governor of the said colony of New South Wales, and after the establishment of the colony of Victoria in the case of a district within the territories comprised in such colony, for the governor of such colony, upon the petition of the council in such district, or if there be no such council existing, then, upon the petition of the inhabitant householders of such district, by letters patent under the great seal of the said colony of New South Wales or of the said colony of Victoria (as the case may require), wholly to revoke the letters patent forming such district ;

Governors of New South Wales and Victoria may grant Charters on Petition, but not otherwise.

And it shall be lawful for the governors of the said

colony of New South Wales or of the said colony of Victoria (as the case may require), upon the petition of the inhabitant householders of any district heretofore formed by any such letters patent as aforesaid which shall become void or be revoked under this act, or of any county, part of a county, or other division comprised in any such district, or in more than one such district, or of any other county, part of a county, or other division not comprised in any district formed by such letters patent as aforesaid which shall continue in force, or by any letters patent to be issued as herein-after mentioned, by letters patent under the great seal of the said colony of New South Wales or the said colony of Victoria (as the case may require) to incorporate the inhabitants of such district or of such county, part of a county, or other division to form a district for the purposes of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty, and of this act, and by such letters patent to establish a council in every such district for the local government thereof; provided always, that notice of every such petition for the grant of such letters patent for forming a district and establishing a council therein, and of the time when the governor intends to take the same into consideration, shall be published by proclamation one month at least before the consideration of such petition; and the provisions of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty, concerning the provisions to be contained in letters patent issued under that act for forming districts and establishing a council in every such district, shall extend and be applicable to all letters patent issued under this act for forming districts and establishing district councils as if such provisions of the said act were here repeated, the name of the colony of Victoria, where the case may require, being substituted for the name of the colony of New South Wales; and, save as herein provided, it shall not be lawful for the governor of the said colony of New South Wales to form districts and establish councils in such districts as by the lastly herein-before recited enactment authorised or required.

Provision of 6 Vict. c. 76. as to forming Districts, &c. extended to Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, after Establishment of Legislative Councils.

• XXI. And be it enacted, that the provision of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty as

amended by this act, authorising the governor of the said colony of New South Wales, upon such petition as herein mentioned, to form districts, and establish a council in every such district, shall apply to and be in force in each of the said colonies of Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, in which a legislative council shall be established under this act, as if such provision were here repeated, the name of such respective colony being substituted for the name of the colony of New South Wales.

Provisions of 5 and 6 Vict. c. 76, concerning District Councils, &c. extended to District Councils established under this Act.

XXII. And be it enacted, that all the provisions of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty, concerning the authority of district councils to make bye-laws, the transmission of a copy of every such bye-law to the governor of the colony, the disallowance and the time of coming into effect of such bye-law, the authority of the governor to specify the metes and bounds of districts, the number of councillors for every district, and the time and manner of their election, to fix the qualification of the councillors, to nominate the councillors who shall form the first councils in every district, to appoint the order and manner of their going out of office, to fix penalties for qualified persons refusing to take office in the council, and to make all other necessary provisions for establishing district councils, for defining their powers, and enabling them to exercise their functions, and the authority of the governor in every case of vacancy of the office of district councillor, if a new election be not made within the time in the same act mentioned, to nominate a person to fill the vacancy, shall extend and be applicable to all letters patent issued under this act for forming districts and establishing district councils, and to such districts and district councils, as if all such provisions were here repeated, the name of the colony in which such district is formed being (where the case may require) substituted for the name of the colony of New South Wales.

Certain Provision of this 5 and 6 Vict. c. 76, requiring Half the Expense of the Police Establishment to be borne by the several Districts, repealed.

XXIII. And whereas by the said firstly-recited act of

the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, it was enacted, that one half of the expense of the police establishment of the said colony of New South Wales (exclusive of the convict establishment) should be defrayed out of the general revenue arising from taxes, duties, rates, and imposts within the said colony, and the other half should be defrayed by assessment upon the several districts of the colony, in such proportions as should be from time to time fixed by the governor and legislative council: be it enacted, that so much of the provision lastly herein before recited as requires that half of the expense of such police establishment as aforesaid shall be defrayed by assessment upon the several districts of the colony shall be repealed.

Governors and Legislative Councils may regulate Tolls and Rates in Districts, alter Constitution and Duties of District Councils, and Number and Boundary of Districts.

XXIV. And be it enacted, that, notwithstanding any letters patent issued under the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, or to be issued under this act, or anything in either of such acts contained, it shall be lawful for the governors and councils of the said colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia respectively by any act or acts to make such regulations and provisions for or concerning the raising, assessing, and levying of tolls, rates, and assessments within or on or in respect of any public works or any property within districts formed in such colonies respectively under the said act or this act, and the appropriation of such tolls, rates, and assessments, and to make such alterations and provisions in and concerning the constitution, duties, and powers of district councils, and such alterations in the number and boundaries of districts, and such provisions for establishing district councils in new or altered districts, as to such respective governors and councils may seem meet.

Existing Laws to remain in force.

XXV. And be it enacted, that all laws and ordinances made under the provisions hereby repealed or otherwise, and which shall be in force in the territories comprised in the said colony of Victoria, and in the said colonies of Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Aus-

tralia respectively, at the time of the issue of the writs for the first election of legislative councils in the said colonies respectively under this act, so far as the same are consistent with the provisions of this act, shall continue in force in the said colonies respectively, subject, as to such laws or ordinances as would then have remained subject to be disallowed by her Majesty, to the authority of her Majesty to disallow the same within the time within which such disallowance might have been signified in case this act had not been passed, and subject to the power of the governors and legislative councils of the said respective colonies, in the manner and subject to the rules and restrictions herein prescribed, to repeal or vary such laws or ordinances; and where under any law which shall be in force at the time aforesaid in the territories to be comprised in the colony of Victoria any powers are vested in or may be delegated to the governor of New South Wales, the same, so far as respects all territories to be comprised within the colony of Victoria, and so far as the same are consistent with the provisions of this act, shall thenceforth be vested in and may be delegated to the governor of the said colony of Victoria.

Removing Doubts as to certain Taxes imposed by Governor and Council of Van Dieman's Land

XXVI. And be it enacted, that so much of the said act of the ninth year of the reign of King George the Fourth as requires that the purposes for which every such tax or duty as therein mentioned may be imposed, and to or towards which the amount thereof is to be appropriated and applied, shall be distinctly and plainly stated in the body of every law and ordinance made or to be made by the governor and council of Van Dieman's Land, and enrolled and recorded in the Supreme Court of the said colony, shall be or deemed to have been invalid by reason of such purposes not being so stated in the body of such law and ordinance.

Customs Duties may be imposed on any Goods.

XXVII. And be it enacted, that, subject to the provisions of this act, and notwithstanding any act or acts of Parliament now in force to the contrary, it shall be lawful for the governor and legislative council of the colony of New South Wales, and after the establishment of legisla-

tive councils therein respectively under this act for the respective governors and legislative councils of the colonies of Victoria, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, to impose and levy such duties of customs as to such respective governors and councils may seem fit on the importation into such respective colonies of any goods, wares, and merchandise whatsoever, whether the produce or manufacture of or imported from the United Kingdom, or any foreign country: Provided always, that no new duty shall be so imposed upon the importation into any of the said colonies of any article the produce or manufacture of or imported from any particular country or place which shall not be equally imposed on the importation into the same colony of the like article the produce or manufacture of or imported from all other countries and places whatsoever.

A Supreme Court may be erected in the Colony of Victoria.

XXVIII. And whereas under an act of the governor and council of New South Wales passed in the fourth year of the reign of her Majesty, intituled "An Act to provide for the more effectual Administration of Justice in New South Wales, and its Dependencies," the number of judges of the Supreme Court of New South Wales constituted under the said act of the ninth year of King George the Fourth has been increased to five, and one of such judges is resident, and has such power, jurisdiction, and authority within the district of Port Philip, subject to such appeal to the said Supreme Court, as by the said act of the governor and council of New South Wales is provided: Be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for her Majesty, by letters patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to erect and appoint a court of judicature in the said colony of Victoria, which shall be styled "The Supreme Court of the Colony of Victoria;" and such court shall be holden by one or more judge or judges, and shall have such ministerial or other officers as shall be necessary for the administration of justice in the said court, and for the execution of the judgments, decrees, orders, and process thereof; and all the provisions of the said act of the ninth year of the reign of King George the Fourth, concerning the appointment and removal of judges and officers of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and for appointing persons to act in the place and stead of judges being absent, resigning, dying, or becoming inca-

pable to act, and concerning appeals to her Majesty in council from judgments, decrees, orders, or sentences of such court, shall apply to the said Supreme Court to be erected in the said colony of Victoria, but so that the powers of the governor of New South Wales in relation to the matters aforesaid shall be vested in the governor of the colony of Victoria; and from such time as shall be mentioned in such letters patent all the authorities, powers, and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and of any judge thereof, over or to be exercised within or in relation to the said colony of Victoria, including all admiralty jurisdiction exercisable within the limits thereof, shall cease to be had and exercised by such last-mentioned Supreme Court and judge respectively, and shall thenceforth be vested in and exercisable by the Supreme Court erected by such letters patent; provided that in the meantime the said authorities, powers, and jurisdiction of the said Supreme Court of New South Wales and of the judges thereof, within and in respect of the said colony of Victoria shall remain as if this act had not been passed, unless or until the same shall be varied by act of the governor and council of the colony of Victoria.

Legislatures of New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and Victoria empowered to make further provisions for the administration of justice.

XXIX. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the governors and councils of the said colonies of New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and Victoria respectively, from time to time, by any act or acts, to make such provision as to them may seem meet for the better administration of justice, and for defining the constitution of the courts of law and equity and of juries, within the said colonies respectively, or within any present or future dependencies thereof respectively, anything in the said act of the ninth year of King George the Fourth, or in this act, or in any charter of justice or order in council made or issued in pursuance thereof respectively, or in any law, statute, or usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Boundaries of New South Wales and Victoria may be altered by order in council.

XXX. And be it enacted, That in case at any time hereafter the legislative councils of the said Colonies of New South

Wales and Victoria, or the legislative council of one of the said colonies, shall petition her Majesty to alter the boundaries of the said colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, so as to transfer to one of such colonies a portion of the territories which, after the separation authorized by this act, shall be comprised in the other of them, it shall be lawful for her Majesty, if she shall think fit, by any order to be made with the advice of her privy council, to alter such boundaries in pursuance of the prayer of such petitions or petition, or in such varied manner as her Majesty with such advice shall think fit: provided, always, that unless the councils of both the said colonies shall petition for an alteration of such boundaries, notice of the petition, and of the intention of her Majesty to order the same to be taken into consideration by her privy council, shall be given in such a manner as her Majesty shall direct to the legislative council which shall not have petitioned, six months at least before such petition shall be so considered.

Duties not to be levied on supplies for troops; nor any duties, &c. inconsistent with treaties.

XXXI. Provided also, and be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the legislatures of any of the said colonies to levy any duties upon articles imported for the supply of her Majesty's land or sea forces, nor to levy any duty, impose any prohibition or restriction, or grant any exemption, bounty, drawback, or other privilege, upon the importation or exportation of any articles, nor to impose any dues or charges upon shipping, contrary to or at variance with any treaty or treaties concluded by her Majesty with any foreign power.

Power to governors and councils, with assent of her Majesty in council, to alter the constitution of legislative councils.

XXXII. And be it enacted, That, notwithstanding anything herein before contained, it shall be lawful for the governor and legislative council of the colony of New South Wales, after the separation therefrom of the colony of Victoria, and for the governors and legislative councils of the said colonies of Victoria Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia respectively, after the establishment of legislative councils therein under this act, from time to time, by any act or acts to alter the provisions or laws for

the time being in force under this act, or otherwise, concerning the election of the elective members of such legislative councils respectively, the qualification of electors and elective members; or to establish in the said colonies respectively, instead of the legislative council, a council and a house of representatives, or other separate legislative houses, to consist respectively of such members to be appointed or elected respectively by such persons and in such manner as by such act or acts shall be determined, and to vest in such council and house of representatives or other separate legislative houses the powers and functions of the legislative council for which the same may be substituted: provided always, that every bill which shall be passed by the council in any of the said colonies for any of such purposes shall be reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon; and a copy of such bill shall be laid before both houses of parliament for the space of thirty days at the least before her Majesty's pleasure thereon shall be signified.

Provision as to the reservation of bills for signification of her Majesty's pleasure.

XXXIII. Provided always, and be it enacted, That the provisions of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty, as explained and amended by the said secondly-recited act of the eighth year of the reign of her Majesty; concerning bills reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon, shall be applicable to every bill so reserved under the provisions of this act.

Provision of 5 & 6 Vict. c. 76. reserving powers to define limits, &c. of New South Wales extended.

XXXIV. And whereas by the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of the reign of her Majesty's power is reserved to her Majesty by letters patent to be from time to time issued under the great seal of Great Britain and Ireland to define the limits of the said colony of New South Wales, and to erect into a separate colony or colonies any territories which then were or were reputed to be or thereafter might be comprised within the said colony of New South Wales, provided that no part of the territories lying southward of the twenty-sixth degree of south latitude in the said colony of New South Wales should by any such letters patent as aforesaid be detached from the said colony: And whereas

it is expedient that the power reserved to her Majesty as aforesaid should be extended over certain parts of the said territories lying southward of the twenty-sixth degree of south latitude, upon the application of the inhabitants thereof:

Upon petition of inhabitants, territories lying northward of thirtieth degree of south latitude may be detached from New South Wales.

Be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for her Majesty, from time to time, upon the petition of the inhabitant householders of any such of the territories in the said recited proviso mentioned as lie northward of the thirtieth degree of south latitude, to detach such territories from the colony of New South Wales, and to erect such territories into a separate colony or colonies, or to include the same in any colony or colonies to be established under the powers of the last-mentioned act; and all the powers and provisions of the last-mentioned act in respect to any new colony or colonies to be established under such act shall extend to any new colony or colonies to be established under this enactment.

Legislative councils may be established in the newly erected colonies.

XXXV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the legislature which may be constituted according to the provisions in the last-mentioned act in any colony established under such act, or under the enactment herein-before contained, by any ordinance or ordinances to be made for that purpose, subject to the conditions and restrictions to which ordinances to be made by such legislature may by law be subject, to establish a legislative council within such colony, to consist of such number of members as they shall think fit; and such number of the members of such council as is equal to one third part of the whole number of members of such council, or if such number be not exactly divisible by three, one third of the next greater number which is divisible by three, shall be appointed by her Majesty, and the remaining members of the council shall be elected by the inhabitants of such colony; and it shall be lawful for such legislature, by such law or ordinance as aforesaid, to make all necessary provisions for dividing such colony into convenient electoral

districts, and for appointing and declaring the number of members of council to be elected for each such district, and for the compilation and revision of lists of all persons qualified to vote at the elections to be holden within such districts, and for the appointing of returning officers, and for the issuing, executing, and returning of the necessary writs for such elections, and for taking the poll thereat, and for determining the validity of all disputed returns, and otherwise ensuring the orderly, effective, and impartial conduct of such elections; and upon the establishment in such colony of a legislative council under this provision, all the provisions of this act and of the said firstly-recited act of the sixth year of her Majesty, and of the said secondly-recited act of the eighth year of her Majesty, which are hereby made applicable to the colony of Western Australia, after the establishment under this act of a legislative council therein, shall become applicable to the colony in which a legislative council is established under this provision, as if all such provisions were here repeated and applied to every such colony.

Interpretation of "governor."

XXXVI. And be it enacted, That by the term "governor" of the colonies mentioned in this act, as used in this act, shall be understood the persons for the time being lawfully administering the government of such colonies respectively, and until her Majesty shall issue a commission appointing a governor of the colony of Victoria, the superintendent of Port Philip shall be deemed the person administering the government of the colony of Victoria.

Commencement of this act.

XXXVII. And be it enacted, That this act shall be proclaimed in New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, South Australia, and Western Australia, by the respective governors thereof, within six weeks after a copy of such act shall have been received by such governors respectively, and, save as herein expressly provided, shall take effect within such colonies respectively from the day of such proclamation thereof.

Act may be amended, &c.

XXXVIII. And be it enacted, That this act may be amended or repealed by any act to be passed in this session of parliament.

SCHEDULES referred to in the foregoing Act:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SCHEDULE (A.) Part 1.

	£
Governor - - - - -	5,000
Chief Justice - - - - -	2,000
Two Puisne Judges - - - - -	3,000
Salaries of the Attorney and Solicitor General, Crown Solicitor, and contingent and miscella- neous Expenses of the Administration of Justice throughout the Colony - - - - -	19,000
	<hr/> 29,000

SCHEDULE (A.) Part 2.

	£
Colonial Secretary, and his Department	6,500
Colonial Treasurer, and his Department	4,000
Auditor General, and his Department - - -	3,000
Salary of Clerk, and miscellaneous Expenses of Executive Council - - - - -	500
Pensions - - - - -	2,500
	<hr/> 16,500

SCHEDULE (A.) Part 3.

	£
Public Worship - - - - -	28,000

VICTORIA.

SCHEDULE (B.) Part 1.

	£
Governor - - - - -	2,000
Judge - - - - -	1,500
Salaries of Attorney General and Crown Solicitor, and contingent and miscellaneous Expenses of the Administration of Justice throughout the Colony - - - - -	5,000
	<hr/> 8,500

SCHEDULE (B.) Part 2.

	£
Colonial Secretary, and his Department	2,000
Colonial Treasurer, and his Department	1,500
Auditor General, and his Department	1,100
Salary of Clerk of Executive Council, and miscellaneous Expenses	400
Pensions	500
	<hr/> 5,500

SCHEDULE (B.) Part 3.

	£
Public Worship	6,000
	<hr/>

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.

SCHEDULE (C.) Part 1.

	£
Governor	2,000
Chief Justice	1,500
Puisne Judge	1,200
Salaries of Attorney and Solicitor General, Crown Solicitors, and contingent and miscellaneous Expenses of Administration of Justice throughout the Colony	13,300
	<hr/> 18,000

SCHEDULE (C.) Part 2.

	£
Colonial Secretary, and his Department	2,800
Colonial Treasurer, and his Department	1,800
Auditor General, and his Department	1,600
Salary of Clerk of Executive Council, and miscellaneous Expenses	700
Pensions	2,000
	<hr/> 8,900

SCHEDULE (C.) Part 3.

	£
Public Worship	15,000
	<hr/>

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

•SCHEDULE (D.) Part 1.

Governor	£
Judge	2,000
Salaries of the Advocate General and Crown Solicitor, and contingent and miscellaneous Expenses of the Administration of Justice throughout the Colony	4,000
	5,000
	<hr/> 8,000

SCHEDULE (D.) Part 2.

Colonial Secretary, and his Department	£
Colonial Treasurer, and his Department	2,000
Auditor General, and his Department	1,500
Salary of Clerk of Executive Council, and miscellaneous Expenses	1,000
	500
	<hr/> 5,000

This Act, conferring the New Constitution, so long expected, was received with every demonstration of joy, in the various provinces, but the following remonstrance was passed by the Sydney Legislative Council, and forwarded to the Right Honourable Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the colonies.

REMONSTRANCE OF THE SELECT
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL AGAINST THE ACT OF
PARLIAMENT 13 AND 14 VICTORIA,
CAP. 59.

WE, the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in council assembled, feel it a solemn duty which we owe to ourselves, our constituents, and our posterity, before we give place to the new legislature established by the 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 59, to record our deep disappointment and dissatisfaction at the constitution conferred by that act on the colony we represent. After the reiterated reports, resolutions, addresses, and petitions, which have proceeded from us during the whole course of our legislative career, against the schedules appended to the 5 and 6 Vict., cap. 76, and the appropriation of our ordinary revenue therein made, by the sole authority of Parliament—against the administration of our waste lands, and our territorial revenue thence arriving—against the withholding of the customs department from our control—against the dispensation of the patronage of the colony by or at the nomination of the minister of the colonies—and against the veto reserved and exercised by the same minister, in the name of the Crown, in all matters of local legislation; we feel that we had a right to expect that these undoubted grievances would have been redressed by the 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 59; or else that power to redress them would have been conferred on the constituent bodies

thereby created, with the avowed intention of establishing an authority more competent than Parliament itself to frame suitable constitutions for the whole group of the Australian colonies. These our reasonable expectations, have been utterly frustrated. The schedules instead of being abolished, have been increased. The powers of altering the appropriations in these schedules, conferred on the colonial legislature by this new enactment, limited as these powers are, have been, in effect, nullified by the subsequent instructions of the colonial minister. The exploded fallacies of the Wakefield theory are still clung to; the pernicious Land Sales Act (5 and 6 Vict., cap. 36.) is still maintained in all its integrity; and thousands of our fellow-countrymen (in consequence of the undue price put by that mischievous and impolitic enactment upon our waste lands, in defiance of the precedents of the United States, of Canada, and the other North American colonies, and even of the neighbouring colony of the Cape of Good Hope,) are annually diverted from our shores, and thus forced against their will to seek a home for themselves, and children in the backwoods of America. Nor is this all. Our territorial revenue, diminished as it is by this insane policy, is in a great measure confined to the introduction among us of people unsuited to our wants, in many instances the outpouring of the poorhouses and unions of the United Kingdom; instead of being applied as it ought to be, in directing to our colony a stream of vigorous and efficient labour, calculated to elevate the character of our industrial population. The bestowal of offices among us, with but partial exceptions, is still exercised by or at the nomination of the colonial minister, and without reference to the just and paramount claims of the colonists,

as if the colony itself were but the fief of that minister. The salaries of the officers of the customs and all other departments of the government mentioned in the schedules are placed beyond our control; and the only result of this new enactment, ushered as it was into Parliament by the Prime Minister himself with so much parade, and under the pretence of conferring upon us enlarged powers of self-government, and treating us, at last, as an integral portion of the British empire, is, that all the material powers exercised for centuries by the House of Commons are still withheld from us. That our loyalty and our desire for the maintenance of proper order are so far distrusted that we are not permitted to vote our own civil list, lest it might prove inadequate to the necessities of the public service. That our waste lands, and our territorial revenue, for which her Majesty is but a trustee, instead of being spontaneously surrendered as an equivalent for such civil list, is still reserved, to our great detriment, to swell the patronage and power of the ministers of the crown. That whilst in defiance of the declaratory act (18 Geo. III., cap. 12, sec. 1.), which has hitherto been considered the Magna Charta of the representative rights of all the British plantations, a large amount of our public revenue is thus appropriated by the authority of Parliament, we have not the poor consolation of seeing that part which is applied to the payment of the salaries of our public officers distributed as it ought to be, exclusively among the settled inhabitants; and that, as a suitable climax to this general system of misrule, our colonial legislature is not allowed to exercise the most ordinary legislation which is not subject to the veto of the colonial minister of the day.

Thus circumstanced, we feel that on the eve of

this council's dissolution, and as the closing act of our legislative existence, no other course is open to us but to enter on our journals our solemn declaration, protest, and remonstrance, as well against the act of Parliament itself (13 and 14 Vict., cap. 59,) as against the instruction of the minister by which the small power of retrenchment that act confers on the colonial legislature has been thus over-ridden; and to bequeath the redress of the grievances, which we have been unable to effect by constitutional means, to the Legislative Council by which we are about to be succeeded.

We, the Legislative Council of New South Wales, do accordingly hereby solemnly protest, insist, and declare as follows:—

1st. The Imperial Parliament has not, nor of right ought to have, any power to tax the people of this colony, or to appropriate any of the moneys levied by authority of the colonial legislature; that this power can only be lawfully exercised by the same legislature; and that the Imperial Parliament has solemnly disclaimed this power by the 18 Geo. III., cap. 12, sec. 1., which act remains unrepealed on the imperial statute-book.

2nd. That the revenue arising from the public lands, derived as it is wholly from the value imparted to them by the labour and capital of the people of this colony, is as much their property as the ordinary revenue, and ought therefore to be subject only to the control and appropriation of the colonial legislature.

3rd. That the customs and all other departments should be subject to the direct supervision and control of the same legislature; that it should have the appropriation of the gross revenues of the colony, from whatever source arising; and, as a

necessary consequence of this authority, the regulation of the salaries of all colonial officers.

4th. That all offices of trust and emolument should be conferred only on the settled inhabitants, the office of governor alone excepted; that this officer should be appointed and paid by the Crown; and that the whole patronage of this colony should be vested in him and his Executive Council, who in its dispensation should be wholly unfettered by any instructions from the minister for the colonies.

5th. That plenary powers of legislation should be conferred upon and exercised by the colonial legislature for the time being; and that no bills should be reserved for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure, unless they affect the prerogatives of the crown, or the general interests of the empire.

Solemnly protesting against these wrongs, and declaring and insisting upon these our undoubted rights, we leave the redress of the one and the assertion of the other to the people whom we represent, and the legislature which shall follow us.

W. C. WENTWORTH, Chairman.

*Legislative Council Chamber,
Sydney, April 29, 1851.*

In reply to this remonstrance, the following despatch was forwarded by the Right Honourable Earl Grey, to His Excellency Sir Charles A. Fitz Roy, Governor of New South Wales:—

DOWNING STREET, 23d January, 1852.

SIR—I have to acknowledge your despatch, No. 165, of the 18th June last, enclosing an address from the late Legislative Council of New South Wales, embodying a Declaration and Remonstrance against the Constitutional

Act 13 and 14 Vic., cap. 59. The same document had reached me a short time before, with a letter from the speaker of the council.

2. It cannot be otherwise than a subject of regret to me, that the council should have entertained so much objection to different provisions of that measure, and should have thought it necessary to declare those objections in this formal shape before separating for the last time. But I must be permitted to doubt whether this remonstrance accurately expresses the feeling of the community. . .

3. For it is certain that her Majesty's government, in forming this measure, took as much pains as was in their power, to make themselves acquainted with, and to consult the feelings, as well as the wants, of the colonists, and had every reason to believe that they had succeeded in doing so, for the report of the Committee of Privy Council, which was closely followed in the bill they submitted to Parliament, was received in New South Wales with very general expressions of satisfaction. In the Port Philip district, which was chiefly affected by the proposed bill, that satisfaction was expressed in the strongest manner; and in the remainder of the colony likewise, public opinion, from such evidence as could be collected here, appeared decidedly favourable to it. I do not mean to say that there were not differences of opinion as to some of the proposed provisions, such differences are unavoidable on political subjects of great interest; but assuredly there was no token of that "deep disappointment and dissatisfaction" which the council now express.

4. The act therefore which embodies the recommendations of the report thus favourably received, from which it only slightly varies, and not, I believe, in any of those particulars to which the objections now taken by the council relate, can hardly be supposed to be unacceptable to the colonists. If, indeed, the institutions created by it had been tried and found insufficient—if any of its provisions had been found oppressive or impracticable—then it would be perfectly natural that those whose anticipations had been favourable should profess themselves disappointed. But it has not been tried at all: and I am therefore entitled rather to suppose that this declaration of the Legislative Council does not, as I have said, accurately represent public feeling, than that public feeling has thus changed without a motive.

5. I feel, however, that too much weight is due to the authority of that body which has now appeared for the

last time, after conducting the legislative affairs of the colony down to the period of its separation, to admit of my receiving a remonstrance from them condemning so strongly what has been done by her Majesty's government, or rather by the Imperial Parliament, without recording fully the grounds on which I think myself entitled to deny the justice of their objections to the measure which has called forth their censure.

6. And for this purpose I must repeat the declaration which her Majesty's government had frequent occasions to make when the act was in contemplation, namely, that it did not purpose, or profess, to make a new constitution for New South Wales. Its primary object (as regarded the colony) was the separation of Port Philip. Its farther object was to accommodate the existing constitution to that separation. The changes made in that constitution were for the most part inconsiderable, and their effect was only to extend, in no one instance to curtail existing rights. But there was one fundamental alteration, namely, that it gave (subject to certain conditions) to the two legislatures the power, which the former united one did not possess, of amending and altering, almost to the fullest extent, their own institutions. This, and this only, was the great constitutional change effected by the act. And no allegation has yet reached me that the powers thus conferred on the legislatures are likely to prove, in any degree, inadequate to the purposes of good government and progressive improvement.

7. I must, therefore, regard the remonstrance, except in some points of detail, rather as a protest against the principles on which the Australian provinces have hitherto been governed, and against some laws affecting those colonies which Parliament has thought fit to maintain, than against this particular act.

8. With regard to the schedules of expenditure, it is obvious on the face of the act, that the powers of the new legislatures over them will be considerably more extensive than those possessed by the old one. „I am not aware to what particular expressions of mine the legislative council refer, when they say that those powers have been nullified by the subsequent instructions of the Colonial Minister. I stated in my despatch transmitting the act, that it was essential that existing interests should be protected; to this I cannot suppose that the legislative council entertain any objection; the declaration was made out of regard to the natural apprehensions of those who were to be ren-

dered more dependent on the votes of the legislature than heretofore, and not from any expectation so injurious to the legislature as that such a restriction would be distasteful. I referred, further, to the opinion of the Committee of the Privy Council, that the salaries of the principal officers ought to be permanently granted; and if this is the restriction complained of, I cannot certainly do otherwise than repeat my agreement in that opinion. It was indeed the conviction that the maintenance of this principle is very essential to the success of constitutional government at its outset, and not any wish to secure particular sums for particular services, which mainly induced Parliament to preserve this portion of the former constitution of New South Wales, subject to the increased power of alteration conferred on the legislature.

9. The legislative council, if I understand them rightly, allege that the maintenance of these schedules involves a violation of the Declaratory Act, 18 Geo. III., cap. 12, an objection which, as far as I am aware, is for the first time urged against them. It might be sufficient to answer that the act in question refers in terms only to the imposition of taxes by the Imperial Legislature, and the appropriation of the produce of taxes so imposed. But it is more important to observe that the Act of George III., neither declares, nor was intended to declare, anything beyond the renunciation by Parliament of any right to interfere with chartered provincial legislatures. The constitution of New South Wales is itself created by act of Parliament, superseding that form of government which, under the peculiar circumstances of the colony, it had been thought necessary to maintain until ten years ago. And Parliament, in creating such a constitution, had an unquestionable right to annex to the grant such conditions as it might think expedient.

10. The administration of the waste lands is a subject which I should have preferred to consider independently of the Constitutional Act, with which it does not appear to me to have any very close connection; but as the legislative Council thought it right to introduce this topic into their remonstrance, I cannot do otherwise than advert to what they have urged; and in doing so it is my duty not to withhold the expression of my decided dissent from the doctrine that the waste lands of New South Wales, or the revenue derived from them, are in any reasonable sense the exclusive property of its inhabitants; or that their

representatives ought to have, as of right, the control and disposal of that revenue.

11. The waste lands of the vast colonial possessions of the British Empire are held by the Crown, as trustee for the inhabitants of that empire at large, and not for the inhabitants of the particular provinces, divided by arbitrary geographical limits, in which any such waste lands happen to be situate. Otherwise this consequence would follow : That the first inhabitants of any of these vast provinces (if possessing those representative institutions which arise as of right in ordinary British colonies), are indefeasably entitled to administer all the lands and land revenue of the great unexplored tract, called a province, of which they occupy an extremity, wholly without regard to the interests of the nation which has founded the settlement, perhaps at great expense, in order to serve as a home for her own emigrants, and a market for her own industry. For the right thus defined and claimed by the legislative council, if their expressions were to be strictly taken, would belong as fully to the four thousand inhabitants of Western Australia as to the two hundred thousand of New South Wales ; nay, would have equally belonged to the first few families which settled in a corner of New Zealand, and would entitle each small community from the first day of its planting, to the ownership of tracts sufficient to maintain empires.

12. When, and on what conditions, it may be desirable to transfer the control of the waste lands of a colony to its local legislature is, in my belief, a question of expediency, and not of right—of expediency respectively, both to the local community and to the people of the empire at large, whose claims require joint consideration and mutual adjustment. And I consider that of the Australian waste lands—lands to which I must add that their present value has been mainly given through the expenditure incurred by this country in founding, maintaining, and defending the several settlements—to be for the present wisely, as well as rightfully, vested in the general government, under the strict rules imposed by Parliament.

13. But while such are my views as to the right under which this revenue is administered, I willingly acknowledge that it is one most essential duty of those who administer it to regard, in an especial manner, the interests of those who have established themselves on the spot, and whose purchases afford the fund to be disposed of. And

I believe this object to be attained in a high degree by the existing arrangement.

14. It will be remembered that the Waste Lands Act, now termed "pernicious," was adopted on the recommendation of a Committee of the House of Commons, by which the whole subject was investigated with the utmost care. The object of this act was to give permanence and more complete effect to a course of policy regarding these lands which had already been adopted, to some extent, in the beginning of 1836, by the executive government. From the adoption of that policy may be dated the extraordinary, and, as I believe, unparalleled advance which the colony has made in wealth and prosperity.

15. Such being the circumstances under which Parliament has thought fit to entrust to the crown the expenditure of the territorial revenue in the Australian Colonies, with the obligation of applying not less than one-half of the net receipts from the sale of land to emigration from the United Kingdom, it is to me a subject of surprise and regret that the council should have seen reason to express the opinion that the duty thus imposed on the advisers of the crown has been so ill performed as to warrant the assertion that the use of the territorial revenue had been in a great measure confined to the introduction of people unsuited to the wants of the colony, and in many instances "the outpourings of the Poor Houses and of the United Kingdom." The view thus communicated to me is certainly inconsistent with any of the detailed information which has been furnished respecting the successive emigrant ships as they reached Australia, and with the general opinions previously transmitted from all the colonies to which emigrants have been sent.

16. Emigration to New South Wales, by means of public funds, having been resumed in the year 1847, no fewer than 31,400 persons had been sent out to this one colony since that time by the emigration commissioners, at the date when they made their last annual report, on the 2d of May, 1851, and any one who consults the detailed reports which have been made respecting these emigrants on their reaching the colony, and which are republished in the Annual Report of the Emigration Commissioners, may easily see how small, amidst this great multitude, is the proportion of persons of whom there has been any serious complaint. Nor have there been wanting general testimonials of a gratifying nature to the satisfaction felt

with the character of the emigrants selected and sent out by the emigration commissioners.

17. The only part of this emigration against which any decidedly unfavourable opinion was expressed, was that which was called "Assisted Emigration." But this mode of promoting emigration was adopted contrary to my own opinion and that of the emigration commissioners, "in deference to the urgent representations of gentlemen who were supposed to enjoy the confidence of the colonists, and more especially of one to whom the legislative council had granted a salary for his services as agent for the colony, and who was therefore entitled to be listened to with attention when he urged on its behalf that the plan to which I adverted should be adopted. For this reason, and because in carrying on a service of so comprehensible a character, and comparatively so recent an origin as emigration, I have always thought it right not to refuse a trial to any reasonable project advocated by gentlemen interested in the supply of labour to the colony; I gave directions to the emigration commissioners to try an experiment, and with great caution the plan of what has been called assisted emigration. At Sydney (at Melbourne a different opinion was entertained), the experiment was considered to have failed, and it was therefore immediately discontinued.

18. But setting aside this experimental measure, I am fully justified in asserting that all the reports as to the emigrants, made at the time of their arrival, tend to establish the conclusion that the arduous undertaking of collecting and conveying to Australia so large a body of people from all parts of the United Kingdom, has been executed in a manner highly advantageous to the colony, and creditable to the board by which it was conducted. I must add that the reports which support this conclusion were made by persons who have shown themselves vigilant in detecting, and prompt in exposing those cases of abuse which it was impossible to expect should not occasionally occur in conducting emigration on so large a scale; nor can there be any doubt that these reports expressed what was the general opinion of the settlers at the time.

19. The council further declares, that "the customs, and all other departments should be subject to the direct supervision and control of the colonial legislature, which should have the appropriation of the gross revenues of the colony, from whatever source arising."

20. I have no wish to controvert the assertion that the

colonial legislature ought to be enabled to exercise a "superintendence," and in one sense "a control" over the administration of the customs as of other departments of the public service, but I have to point out that the power of exercising a superintendence over the customs' department has already been in effect conferred upon the legislative council by my circular despatch of 8th of August, 1850, which the legislative council, in framing this remonstrance, seem to have entirely overlooked. By that despatch the management of the customs' department, which had been formerly retained in their own hands by the lords commissioners of the treasury (as was necessary while the former navigation laws were in force) has been entrusted to the local government, subject to the same conditions as other branches of the public service. The government has ever shown a perfect readiness to communicate to the legislative council the most ample information as to the manner in which the administration is conducted; and thus the people of New South Wales, through their representatives, possess the same powers with their fellow subjects at home, of interfering to correct any abuse or mismanagement which may occur in the conduct of their affairs, by advice or remonstrance addressed to the crown, or the governor, by whom the crown is represented. No more control than this over the customs department could be given to the legislative council of New South Wales, without violating those important constitutional principles as to the strict separation of executive from legislative functions, which in this country has always been considered expedient to maintain.

21. With regard to the claim that the gross instead of the net revenues derived from the customs should be placed at the disposal of the legislature, I have to observe that in this respect the law of New South Wales is precisely the same with that which has always existed in this country, where the crown has always had the power of paying out of the gross revenue the expenses of collection and the salaries of the officers employed in it. I believe this practice to be that best calculated to ensure an efficient performance of this important branch of public business; and coupled with the rule that full information as to the details of the expenditure incurred, shall, when called for, be laid before the legislature, it affords also in my judgment ample security against abuse. At all events, it can hardly be considered that there is any grievance to be complained of in this matter, when the legislative

council is placed, with regard to it, precisely on the same footing with the imperial parliament.

22. On the subject of official appointments, it is impossible for her Majesty's government to recognize, on the part of the inhabitants of New South Wales, any monopoly of a right to such situations, so as to preclude them from being bestowed on others of her Majesty's subjects. The inhabitants of New South Wales are not considered disqualified from receiving similar appointments, either in other colonies or at home; nor could anything be more injurious to the interests of the British Empire than to lay down a rule by which it should be broken up into a number of small communities, the members of each of which should be considered as only admissible to employment in that to which they more immediately belonged.

23. But while the principle of regarding all her Majesty's subjects as admissible to office in New South Wales cannot be abandoned, there has assuredly been no practical grievance inflicted in this respect on the inhabitants of the colony, since, for several years past, public employments there have, with scarcely an exception, been filled by persons selected by the governor, whose nominations have been almost invariably approved by the secretary of state. And I consider it of great importance to the interests of the colony, as tending to secure a good selection of persons for such employments, that the existing rule should be maintained, by which the governor is required to report his appointments, and receive her Majesty's confirmation of them, if they are to offices exceeding a certain value.

24. With regard to the last clause of the protest, which claims what are termed plenary powers for the local legislature, it is scarcely necessary to remark that although the council naturally confine their declaration to the case of the province which they have represented, it is impossible for me to notice it, in answer, except as applying generally to the colonial possessions of the British crown. For the constitutional rule or principle against which protest is here made, is equally in force in every colony, from the comparatively old and numerous communities in North America, down to the smallest settlement enjoying a separate legislature. It could hardly be altered in one colony without a general change of system, and the introduction of so vast a change would require far more practical and pressing grounds to justify it than what I

must term a theoretical preference of some different and untried scheme.

25. It is not denied that the governor of a colony, as representing the crown, must necessarily be a party to all legislation.. and there would be obvious objections to placing in the hands of the ablest governor the power of binding the crown by his acceptance of acts, in necessary ignorance of the views which the Crown, through its advisors, charged with the superintendence of the general interests of the Empire, may entertain. This, I believe, to be the main ground on which this power has been generally retained and exercised by the Crown from the earliest periods of colonial history; nor does it seem to me, that it could be abandoned with safety to the permanence of the connection between the mother country and her colonies.

26. I am satisfied, at all events, that they are doing little service to the cause of good government who urge the adoption of a change of such magnitude as this, unless they are prepared with a well considered substitute for the system which they propose to abandon. I am aware of no substitute having been proposed which, in my opinion, answers this description. The only one which I have seen suggested and to which I believe the Legislative Council to refer, although I am not certain of their meaning, is this,—that subjects of legislation should be divided into Local and Imperial; that on the former the Governor should give or withhold the Royal Assent without farther confirmation from the Crown; that on the latter the local Legislature should have no power at all, its acts or any portions of them affecting these subjects being absolutely null and void. And these heads so reserved are of course numerous, including amongst others the very extensive one of the Prerogative of the Crown.

27. I am unwilling to enter on a subject merely controversial, and which is not fully placed before me with the arguments of those who advocate the innovation. But I cannot refrain from observing on the practical inconveniences which would seem necessarily to attend a system under which large subjects, and many of them very difficult to define, would be absolutely withdrawn from the power of the local Legislature; so that they would be at once unable to legislate at all on many matters on which it is most desirable they should legislate, subject to the control of the Crown, and at the same time under constant uncertainty whether acts, passed with strictly constitutional intentions, might not be invalid through some inadvertent

infringement of the limits of their authority—limits which could, ultimately only be defined and preserved through the uncertain process of judicial interpretation in Courts of Law. I say nothing of the extreme difficulty of constituting a tribunal fit to judge of the validity of such acts, or the certainty that its decisions would soon be felt as far greater hardships than the refusal of the Crown, through its ministers, to allow an act, which refusal further consideration may at all times change or modify.

28. If, indeed, this power of the crown were complained of, as practically a grievance, the representations of the council would have great additional weight; but no such complaint appears to be made, nor do I see how it could be. From the information afforded by the records of this office, it seems that not more than seven acts of the legislature of New South Wales have been disallowed since the commencement of the representative institutions; and about the same number returned for the insertion of amendments before her Majesty's confirmation could be given; and of the trifling number thus interfered with (nearly all in the first three sessions when the experiment was new,) several were obviously such acts as the local legislature, under the proposed division of subjects, which I have above adverted to, would have had no right to pass at all.

29. On the other hand a very slight examination of the acts, more than two hundred in number, which have received the Royal confirmation, will probably show that many of them would have been, either wholly or partially, in excess of like powers of the Legislature, and absolutely void, if such a division of authorities had existed. And this shows the practical convenience of the law as it now stands;—for the Council of New South Wales has legislated, and will continue to legislate, without hindrance, on many subjects, either of Imperial cognizance or touching the Prerogative, to the great advantage of the community, because the interests of the Crown and the empire are sufficiently guarded by the power of disallowance possessed by the Crown, rarely as it is found necessary to exercise it.

30. I have thus explained to you the views of her Majesty's Government on all the principal heads of the Declaration of the late Legislative Council; and "I trust that, however this explanation may be received by those who, as members of that body, adopted the Declaration, their constituents will be more disposed to weigh the

considerations here advanced, and to endeavour, to the best of their power, to mitigate the opposition of opinions, and conciliate jarring interests, than to adopt without demur, the sweeping conclusions which that Declaration advocates. At all events, I feel certain that, on reflection, they will acquit her Majesty's government of any intention to inflict on them a system of misrule and oppression. We have had the interest of the local community and of the Empire, which, rightly considered, are the same, solely in view; and to attribute to us other motives, would be as unjust, as it would be, on my part, to impute the language of this declaration, because I do not agree in it, to a spirit of faction or resentment. Whatever may be the censure in which the late Council may have thought fit to indulge towards myself, I cannot be guilty of such injustice towards them. Amidst the deep satisfaction with which I have watched, of late years, the extraordinary progress of New South Wales, in nearly all that constitutes the social and material welfare of a community, I have never ceased to appreciate the manner in which its Legislature has contributed to that advance, by the zealous and constant discharge of its duty to its constituents. And it is my sincere hope, that the now separate Legislatures, using with their best abilities the powers which the act now under discussion has conferred on them, will follow in that career of improvement which their predecessors have marked out for them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

GREY.

Governor Sir Charles Fitz Roy, &c.

The following report of proceedings in the Sydney Legislative Council, extracted from the *Sydney Empire*, will prove interesting:—

The Council assembled the 8th June, a chief part of the business of the session being to vote the estimates for the remaining part of this year, and for 1853. Mr. Wentworth gave notice at the end of June that on a certain day when it was believed the estimates would be brought forward, he would move a call of the House; his intentions being thus, contingently, to secure a full attendance of members for due deliberation on another motion before the estimates should be brought on; and he intimated what the

nature of the latter motion would be. This mode of action, provoked by the long course of supercilious conduct on the part of the Colonial office in regard to the often urged claims of the colonists, was stimulated to determination by the last despatch of Earl Grey in reference to a remonstrance sent to him by the late Legislative Council at its last sitting. A similar declaration of grievances had been voted by the present council at its session in December last, and to this a final reply has yet to be received. There being both hopes and fears concerning the course which the new Secretary for the Colonies might deem it proper to pursue, and many misgivings as to the mode in which the local government might secretly act, whether to prejudice, or entirely to neutralise, the complaints of the Council, Mr. Wentworth, and those with him, determined to bring the matter to an issue. The estimates had to wait for the passing of the new Tariff Bill. This being disposed of, the statements were laid on the table and ordered to be printed on Wednesday, August 11; and the day appointed for the consideration of them was that day week, August 18. The day having arrived, the call of the House was foregone, as most of the members were present, but the motion intended was substantially persisted in, and was to the effect that his Excellency should be requested to prorogue the Council to the 5th of next December, in order to give full time for a reply to the last declaration of grievances and its accompanying petition to her Majesty, to be received; and that the estimates be deferred to that time. The motion was lost by 28 to 17, 16 nominees voting against it: it was lost, however, with many warnings to the members of the government respecting the difficulties they had brought upon themselves at every prospective step by their resistance. The estimates then stood over for the following Wednesday, August 25; but before this was ordered, Mr. Morris moved, "that the question be amended, by adding at the end thereof the words, 'And that it be an instruction to the committee not to vote any increase to any salary on the supplementary estimates for 1852, until the whole of the gold revenue be placed at the disposal of this council.'" On the day of the order, this motion was by consent of the House withdrawn, and another amendment was moved by Mr. Wentworth, of which he had given notice, as follows:—"But before going into committee upon such estimates, this House feels it to be an imperative duty to record its deliberate determination not to consider any future estimates until

an intimation be received that the grievances complained of in the petition to her Most Gracious Majesty, adopted by this House on the 5th December, 1852, will be favourably considered, with a view to their being completely redressed." This motion was carried by a majority of 1—24 to 23—three nominees voting for it. It was then again found necessary to postpone the motion for going into the estimates, to Wednesday, September 1. On the arrival of that day new questions arose. While in committee, the gold revenue, its management, and the expenses to be charged on it came under review, and a spirited debate issued in the further postponement of the business for a week.

This was the state of affairs on the day after the sailing of the *Chusan*. It will be seen that the resistance to the government had all along been on constitutional points, and that though there had been a defeat in point of numbers on the first motion for an immediate suspension of the estimates, there was a victory on the second, in regard to the estimates of next year, if the hope were not held out by government of conciliatory arrangements before they were called for. This victory was augmented in its effect, when in the attempt to go on with the committee, the conduct of the government, and the expense incurred regarding the military, came up for consideration. There is every reason to believe that the estimates would have been finally obstructed if affairs had not taken a most unexpected turn in favour of the constitutional party. The struggle has thus been wholly for constitutional rights on behalf of the colony; and it has been collateral and parallel, though not necessarily connected, with the preparation, by a select committee, of a bill for a new constitution.

On Wednesday, September 8, when the motion was again made to go into committee on the estimates, a strenuous argument was entered into by Messrs. Cowper, Lamb, Campbell, and Wentworth, to show that it was impossible to go on with these matters in the present embarrassed state of public questions; and the honourable and learned member for Sydney finished by moving his amendment, to the effect, that in substance the Right Honourable Earl Grey had, in a despatch of date 17th October, 1851, authorized the local government to place the gold revenue at the disposal of the local legislature, which it was necessary to have done in order to make the public business, for which the council was responsible, in any way practicable,

and that an address should be sent to his Excellency to this effect, the estimates being meanwhile suspended. Hence arose another adjournment, moved by one of the officers of government, till Wednesday, 15th September; and both parties seemed now to be preparing for a final conflict upon these points of right.

It was manifest that during this whole contention, the cause of patriotism, and the opposition to arbitrary government, were gaining strength; several of those who had opposed the contingent motion having now become avowed advocates of the public rights, and even nominees were among them. The progress of our legislators in this direction must now be regarded as highly encouraging to all friends of justice and good government. Even the members of government have often enunciated sentiment indicative of growing enlightenment on the political rights and necessities of the community.

The following day, by the steamer *Australian*, the despatch of Sir John Pakington arrived, directing the gold revenue to be placed wholly at the disposal of the legislative council. The government lost no time in sending this despatch to the House, and it was received with loud cheers. The debate standing over for the last Wednesday was now easily disposed of. The amendment was withdrawn. On one point only the members who were to have pressed that amendment reserved themselves, and that was the military question. The expenses incurred by this measure, and the arbitrary mode in which the expense had been incurred, as well as the danger of allowing troops to be introduced without the concurrence of the local legislature, are all points to be debated when the proper time arrives for that branch of supply to be considered.

There are several measures of importance unfinished or impending. Among these is the Postage Amendment Bill, which has passed through committee once, and must receive additional touches. A police measure of the government has been referred to a select committee. The two matters in contemplation, which involve the most serious consequences, are the new modelling of the constitution, and the revision of the Marriage and Registration Laws. A select committee has nearly prepared a bill for the constitution, which is to be laid before the House next week. Its present state is not divulged, some alterations having probably been made in it since it was drawn up. It is hoped that this bill will be equitable in its provisions,

and so harmonious with itself, as to be a model for the sister colonies to adopt. It is also earnestly hoped that the most ready disposition will be shown by the Imperial Government and Parliament to the just desires of the colonists, who have now acquired an adult condition, and a full right of self-government. The select committee which has been sitting on the marriage question have finished their evidence, but in what state of forwardness their labours are beyond that is not publicly known.

On the whole, the present moment must be regarded, politically, as of surpassing importance, to New South Wales, and, through her, to the surrounding provinces. The gold discoveries have brought a crisis which had been long in gestation, and which can scarcely fail to produce issues commensurate with all futurity. The establishment of a political status for this colony, on sound principles, at the very time when immigration is swelling beyond danger of suppression, is an era to this whole hemisphere, and even to the whole world.

STATISTICAL RETURNS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE colony of New South Wales has long been indebted to the Honourable Colonial Secretary for the Statistical Returns, which he has for many years back been in the habit of annually laying before the legislature. The accuracy of these returns—the care used in their compilation—and the skill displayed in their methodical arrangement, have deserved and commanded the gratitude of those whose business, or whose interest, or whose study it is to watch the progress of the colony, to provide from the experience of the past the necessary provision for the future.

Figures, after all, are the safest foundation for the measures of the legislature, and the instruction of the journalist. And it is to be regretted that these returns, in their complete shape, have not had a more widely extended circulation than they have hitherto enjoyed.

With very few isolated exceptions, they are the only statistical documents of authority from which the social and material progress of the colony can be gathered; and it is to be traced to the want of such information as these returns afford being more generally diffused, that we have had occasion to find to our cost how little the true position of this great dependency of the British Crown has been understood and appreciated. Even the temptations offered by our gold fields have been resisted, until the interest they excited on the minds of the European world induced journalists and pamphleteers, lecturers and authors, to make these remote provinces of the empire the subject of their lucubrations and the theme of their discourses. But in the information thus imparted a good deal of quackery and deception has mingled—partly, no doubt, from design, but to a very considerable extent from the want of correct knowledge of the subject by those who professed to impart it.

To furnish accurate information, then, in a crisis like the present, is of the highest importance, and therefore these returns come before us at a most opportune moment; and great as has been the credit due to Mr. Thomson, in former years for the accomplishment of his official task in preparing these returns, the set now before us merits more than our usual acknowledgments.

In the material, the extent, and the arrangement of these valuable documents, a just appreciation of the increasing necessity for information is evinced,

and almost every subject which would offer itself to the intending emigrants, or to studious men wishing to make themselves masters of the state of this colony, is explained and illustrated by figures arranged with the most lucid accuracy.

The statistics before us, although not specifically so divided, may be classed in three departments—the statistics of production, the statistics of commerce, and the statistics of society.

In the first place are included agriculture, vineyards, live stock, tallow and lard, wool and oil; in the second class, mills, manufactories and manufactures, imports, exports, shipping, auction sales, land sales, and coin; in the third class, population, emigration, births, marriages, deaths, schools, lunatic asylums, criminal convictions, criminals executed, litigation, mortgages on land, wool and live stock, revenue expenditure, post offices, &c., prices of provisions and clothing, and rates of wages.

These returns extend from the year 1837, and the statistics are confined to New South Wales proper only.

It is our intention to go into such analysis of these returns as our space will permit, in order as far as can be to supply the want of the returns themselves to the student or statist, and to make the information they afford available in a more popular form for the instruction of the general reader.

The basis of these returns is of course population. The extent of production, of commerce, and of society, the capabilities of the colony, its soil and climate, can only be judged of in reference to the number and character of the people.

Under the head of "Population," then we find the Census taken on the 1st of March, 1851, it consisted of 108,691 males, and 81,260 females.

making a total of 189,951. The increase to the 31st of December, 1851, had been 9,043 males, and 5,243 females. The increase in the males arose from immigration, 5,799; from births, 3,244. In the females, from immigration, 2,091; from births, 3,152. The decrease to the 31st of December, was, 4,702 males, and 2,367 females. The decrease in the males arose from deaths, 1,344; departure from the colony, 3,358; and in the females, from deaths, 823; and from departures, 1,544. The total increase was 14,286; the total decrease, 7,069, leaving the net increase during the three-quarters of the year, 7,217, viz:—by births, 2,229; by immigration, 2,968. The increase by births being a fraction more than two per cent.; and by immigration about one and a quarter per cent. The number of marriages in the year 1851, was 1,915, and they were solemnized as follows:—

Church of England	765
„ „ Scotland	426
Wesleyan	100
Independents	8
Baptist	4
Church of Rome	605
Jews' Synagogues	7

It is an interesting fact, and tells well for the social progression of the colony, that since the year 1837, the returns show, almost without an exception, an increase in the births, and a decrease in the deaths over and above the proportionate increase of population.

The statistics relative to the increase of population, by immigration, are very interesting and voluminous; but we are obliged to content ourselves by abstracting a few of the most important facts. We find that the whole number of immi-

grants, introduced into the colony, during the twenty years, at the public expense, was, in:

1832	792	1839	7,852	1846	Nil.
1833	1,253	1840	5,216	1847	Nil.
1834	484	1841	12,188	1848	4,376
1835	545	1842	5,071	1849	8,309
1836	808	1843	Nil.	1850	4,678
1837	2,664	1844	2,726	1851	1,846
1838	6,102	1845	497		

Making the total number of immigrants introduced during the twenty years at the public expense 64,807

These consisted of, adults, male 21,653
female 25,595

And of children, under 14 years of age 17,559

The total cost to the colony for this immigration was £1,134,511 15 6

In 1832 the cost per head was	6	13	8
" 1833	10	16	10
" 1834	10	9	7
" 1835	18	0	9
" 1836	16	4	6
" 1837	17	13	10
" 1838	16	18	11
" 1839	18	17	6
" 1840	22	12	5
" 1841	17	0	2
" 1842	16	9	0
" 1844	16	9	9
" 1845	19	4	2

The averages for the remaining years are not given, but we believe they have been about £15. per head. The whole of this expenditure has been borne out of the territorial revenue of the colony, although it has been found necessary to anticipate that revenue by borrowing upon its security. The debentures issued by the government for this purpose amount in all to £836,800.; and the net proceeds realised by these debentures was £338,286:

15s. 1d. The amount of debentures which has been paid off was £149,500.; and the amount outstanding on the 31st of December, 1851, was £187,100. The interest paid on debentures has been £33,786. 14s. 1d.

We now come to Education, and we find there were in the colony, in

	Schools	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.	Total.
1840	159	4,639	3,935	8,574
1841	192	4,957	4,124	9,081
1842	232	5,698	4,635	10,333
1843	279	6,286	5,103	11,389
1844	313	6,814	5,776	12,590
1845	327	7,813	6,642	14,455
1846	388	8,613	7,650	16,263
1847	376	9,848	8,702	18,550
1848	382	10,267	8,722	18,989
1849	444	10,721	9,250	19,971
1850	493	11,214	10,170	21,384
1851	423	11,118	10,002	21,120

The schools, in the year 1851, consisted of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Orphan Schools, with 345 scholars, maintained by government at an expense of £5,212. 3s. 11d. The Church of England Denominational Schools, with 4,998 scholars, receiving £5,212. 5s. 3d. from government, and paying £2,324. 2s. 7d., by voluntary contributions. The Wesleyan Schools with 891 scholars, receiving £588. 9s. 2d. from the government, and £665. 11s. 2d. from voluntary contributions. The Roman Catholic Schools, with 3,310 scholars, receiving £2,576. 15s. 4d. from the government, and £985. 17s. 1d. from voluntary contributions. The National Schools, containing 2,861 scholars, receiving from government £6,766. 10s. 3d., and £1,179 17s. 3d. from volun-

tary contributions.—Private schools, consisting of 227 in number, containing 6,721 scholars.

The next chapter in the colonial statistics is a very painful one—one, we fear, that is scarcely equalled in its mournful details by the experience of any other British colony. It is a return of the lunatics in the colony. The first establishment mentioned is that at Tarban Creek.

In 1851 there were received into the asylum,	males	50
" " " "	females	35
" Of whom were	males	18
" " " "	females	14
" Improved,	males	9
" " " "	females	18
" Died,	males	14
" " " "	females	4
On the 31st of December, 1851, there remained in the asylum, supposed to be curable,	males	42
	females	24
Supposed to be incurable,	males	25
" " "	females	27
Total in the asylum		118

In the establishment at Parramatta, for free lunatics, there were in the same year (1831)

Admitted, males	8
" females	17
Of whom were cured, males	3
" females	3
On the 31st of December, 1851, there remained in the establishment, supposed curable, males	5
" " females	6
" " incurable, males	51
" " females	50
Total in the establishment	112

In the Convict Lunatic and Invalid Establish-

rality and good sense of the colony is the Return entitled "Litigation," from which it appears that lawsuits in our civil courts have been reduced to about one-fourth of what they were in former years. There were in

1837 ... 459 cases	1842 ... 1,069 cases	1847 ... 135 cases
1838 ... 570 "	1843 ... 852 "	1848 ... 127 "
1839 ... 326 "	1844 ... 288 "	1849 ... 101 "
1840 ... 555 "	1845 ... 851 "	1850 ... 89 "
1841 ... 884 "	1846 ... 169 "	

In 1851 there were three cases tried by common juries, and three by special juries; 92 defended cases, tried by juries of four; and 21 undefended cases: making a total of 119.

There are two Returns—the first—of Mortgages on Land registered in the colony of New South Wales, from the year 1837 to the year 1851. The second, a Return of Preferable Liens on Wool and of Mortgages on Live Stock, which are useful as indicating the position of property of this kind in the colony.

The number of Mortgages on Land, in

	£	s.	d.
1837 was 286, amounting to	231,014	4	8
1838 " 256, "	248,891	16	4
1839 " 383, "	348,818	4	10
1840 " 459, "	514,741	0	4
1841 " 709, "	1,008,714	14	7
1842 " 625, "	824,412	10	0
1843 " 581, "	1,055,580	19	6
1844 " 494, "	299,818	2	0
1845 " 318, "	272,282	10	5
1846 " 308, "	170,374	11	4
1847 " 320, "	180,544	10	6
1848 " 307, "	202,646	10	7
1849 " 376, "	198,479	11	1
1850 " 310, "	142,022	10	6
1851 " 359, "	144,402	12	8

This return is interesting, inasmuch as it shows

how, in the earlier years of the colony, the landed possessions of individuals formed but a very fallacious indication of the real wealth of the possessor. Persons bought large estates and tracts of land, without the means of paying for them, much less of making them productive of revenue or even of the interest payable on these mortgages, and we consequently see them growing rapidly until the years 1841, 1842, and 1843. This evil hour was put off till the latest moment, but the insolvencies of those years swept them off like the blast of the desert. In the latter of these years the mortgages amounted to £1,055,580. 19s. 6d.; in 1844 they were reduced to £299,818. 2s. Since that period they have gradually decreased, and last year they amounted only to £141,402. 12s. 8d., a proof that the real property of the colony at the present time is distributed more generally, and, resting on a firmer basis, is in a far more healthy state, than when the very hollowness of its tenure gave it a glittering but deceptive value.

The second of these returns, viz., the Preferable Liens on Wool, and the Mortgages on Live Stock, is also interesting, from the local peculiarity which attaches to them. These mortgages originated in an Act of the Colonial Legislature, which was passed, to meet certain necessities of the wool-farmers and graziers, and which, although at first disallowed by the Imperial Government as a novelty in legislation, has since been repeatedly re-enacted, and has been found to work very beneficially. The object was to enable proprietors of flocks to give preferable liens on their crops of wool, from season to season, and to make sheep and cattle valid mortgage securities, without delivery to the mortgagee. In 1843, the year in which this Bill first passed,

		Liens.	Sheep.		£.	s.	d.
In	there were	54	on	318,739,	for	30,664	18 5
1844,	„	139	„	837,997,	„	57,733	1 10
1845,	„	125	„	657,989,	„	55,865	18 7
1846,	„	142	„	833,951,	„	71,351	5 0.
1847,	„	199	„	1,095,102,	„	107,447	16 10
1848,	„	240	„	8,378,130,	„	108,892	2 11
1849,	„	211	„	1,154,468,	„	84,692	18 3
1850,	„	187	„	1,148,644,	„	82,731	0 0
1851,	„	192	„	1,069,481,	„	85,110	2 2

The number of Mortgages on Live Stock, in

	Mortgages.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Amount.		
1843	96	397,395	41,130	993	178,567	6	10
1844	226	694,381	81,679	2,158	211,727	6	11
1845	152	464,713	49,139	1,568	132,355	7	7
1846	116	491,518	42,870	1,070	150,733	0	8
1847	168	623,267	45,578	1,110	137,856	15	1
1848	205	1,118,782	83,421	2,056	219,756	15	8.
1849	213	1,192,166	72,822	1,717	161,533	5	11
1850	163	639,765	54,481	770	118,987	0	1
1851	158	763,180	75,608	1,137	123,126	2	6

In the returns we have thus summarized, the number of the population is stated, and to some extent its social and moral character is indicated. We now proceed to examine the productive returns of the colony: and in proportion to the value of the productions, in proportion to the population of the country, the circumstances of its recent establishment, and its remoteness from European civilization, must its capabilities and richness be computed.

The first return is entitled Agriculture, showing the quantity of land in cultivation in the colony of New South Wales, and the produce of the same, from the years 1837 to 1851 inclusive. It is unnecessary that we should enter into the whole of the details during the entire period, but it is suf-

ficient to say the increase in the production has been steadily progressive.

The number of Acres, in Crop, in

1837 was	92,125	1842 was	118,755	1847 was	128,598
1838 „	92,763	1843 „	133,185	1848 „	123,495
1839 „	94,882	1844 „	128,406	1849 „	135,806
1840 „	122,966	1845 „	138,237	1850 „	144,647
1841 „	110,249	1846 „	151,034	1851 „	152,057

Land under Produce, was cropped as follows:—In

1841, Wheat,	82,110 acres,	being	1,407,465 bush.
„ Maize,	25,017	„	707,053 „
„ Barley,	6,725	„	No return
„ Oats,	2,470	„	49,069 bush.
„ Rye,	245	„	4,891 „
„ Mullet,	54	„	731 „
„ Potatoes,	4,079	„	13,644 tons.
„ Tobacco,	731	„	12,530 cwt.
„ Hay,	30,625	„	36,605 tons.

Of course the crops of various sorts vary according to the season; but with the exception of hay and maize, in which there is a very small decrease on that of some former years, the crops were larger last year, than they have ever been known before.

In order to show how far the agricultural production of the colony is equivalent to the consumption of the country, we may say that in 1851, the import of bread stuffs, and potatoes, was in estimated value £66,882, while that of the exports of the same articles was £22,856. But it is to be taken into consideration that this very large import originated to a large extent in the probable demand to arise from the gold discoveries, as in the previous year, 1850 the import of grain and potatoes was only valued at £16,939; while the exports were valued at £21,454.

The next return is one showing the number of acres of land planted with the grape vine, and the

quantity of wine or brandy made from the produce.
The number of Acres planted in

		Acres.		Wine Gallons.	Brandy Gallons.
1843,	was	508,	producing	33,915	751
1844,	"	556	"	50,566	1,018
1845,	"	611	"	94,996	1,433
1846,	"	749	"	52,337	1,383
1847,	"	899	"	54,035	1,402
1848,	"	887	"	97,300	1,763
1849,	"	963	"	95,843	1,266
1850,	"	1,069½	"	111,085	1,985
1851,	"	1,060½	"	84,813	1,641

In reference to this return, we may state that the wine imported in the year 1851 comprised 273,856 gallons, the estimated value of which was £38,881; while the export was—colonial wine, 3,050 gallons, valued at £827; foreign wine, 28,726 gallons, valued at £4,833.

The next return is that of live stock, and this return extends from 1849 to 1851 inclusive.

	Horses.	Horned Cattle	Pigs.	Sheep.
In 1849 there were	55,739	850,160	51,607	3,152,539
" 1844, "	64,093	971,559	52,196	3,748,732
" 1845, "	73,014	116,420	56,022	4,409,504
" 1846, "	76,726	1,110,297	39,793	4,903,819
" 1847, "	90,118	1,270,706	57,305	5,673,266
" 1848, "	97,400	1,366,164	65,216	6,530,542
" 1849, "	105,126	1,463,651	52,902	6,784,191
" 1850, "	111,458	1,374,968	52,371	7,092,209
" 1851, "	116,497	1,375,257	63,510	7,396,895

From this return it will be seen that on the 31st December, 1851, there was in the proportion of 6½ horned cattle, and 57 sheep, to every man, woman, or child in the colony; 2 horses to every three individuals, and 1 pig to every three individuals. A proportionate wealth in stock of this description not to be equalled we believe in any community in the world, except, perhaps, in the sister colony, Victoria.

Of the live stock of the colony, 81,083 horses, 451,233 horned cattle, 59,429 pigs, and 2563,386 sheep belong to the settled districts; while 34,314 horses, 923,994 horned cattle, 6,081 pigs, and 7,133,509 sheep belong to the districts beyond the boundaries of location. The estimated value of the live stock exported during the year 1851 was £23,645; while the value of the imported stock was only £7,510.

Connected with this last return, and arising out of it, is the return of the production of tallow, lard, and wool.

There were slaughtered in

	Sheep.	Cattle.		Tallow.
1844	127,280	and 16,891	producing	28,991 cwt.
1845	85,377	„ 36,361	„	46,854 „
1846	33,528	„ 9,753	„	16,802 „
1847	128,741	„ 22,012	„	58,963 „
1848	165,701	„ 33,667	„	69,812 „
1849	393,971	„ 33,714	„	85,675 „
1850	292,116	„ 69,365	„	128,230 „
1851	232,815	„ 42,271	„	88,115 „

The production of wool we cannot determine so precisely, as we have only a return of the quantity exported, and of the cloth made in the colony. The quantity of wool produced, and cloth manufactured was, in

	Wool. lbs.	Wollen cloth. Yards.	No. of Blankets.
1844	9,215,941	No return	No return.
1845	10,522,921	„	„
1846	10,072,570	„	„
1847	12,169,684	175,088	424
1848	12,445,048	164,769	248
1849	13,396,525	180,197	48
1850	14,270,622	190,791	32
1851	15,268,473	114,394	no return.

Another return connected closely with the return of Live Stock, is the Return of the Export of Salt Meat.

In 1844, this amounted to	4,202 casks.
„ „ Mutton Hams	10,056
„ „ Bacon „	199
„ „ Tongues	250
„ „ Preserved Meats, 31 cases, and	258 lbs.
„ 1845, Salt Meat	1,142 casks.
„ „ Hams	91 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	63 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	12 packages.
„ 1846, Salt Meat	721 casks.
„ „ Hams	30 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	127 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	224 packages.
„ 1847, Salt Meat	4,515 casks.
„ „ Hams	218 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	127 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	12 packages.
„ 1848, Salt Meat	2,308 casks.
„ „ Hams	115 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	81 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	93 cases.
„ 1849, Salt Beef	192 ton 2 cwt.
„ „ Hams	254 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	151 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	376 cases.
„ 1850, Salt Beef	308 tons.
„ „ Hams	441 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	218 casks.
„ „ Preserved Meats	1,999 cases.
„ 1851, Salt Meat	221 ton 17 cwt.
„ „ Hams	216 cwt.
„ „ Tongues	4½ tons.
„ „ Preserved Meats	765 cwt.

* We may add, in passing, that the import of salt meat, which, in 1837 to 1841 ranged in estimated value from £25,000 to £80,000; in 1849 was £1,061; in 1850, £1,649; in 1851, £3,951.

RATES OF WAGES IN SYDNEY.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1852.

Per Diem.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Stonemasons	8	0 to	8	6
Carpenters and Joiners	7	0 „	9	0
Bricklayers	8	0 „	8	6
Masons' and Bricklayers' Labourers	7	0 „	7	6
Common spademen and other inferior building labourers	5	0 „	6	0
Plasterers	8	0 „	9	0
Painters and Glaziers	8	6 „	9	0
Foremen and overseers of buildings	10	6 „	15	0
Carters and Draymen	15	0 „	20	0
Sawyers, 12s. per 100 feet, superficial—soft wood.				

[The earnings of hard wood sawyers can scarcely be estimated, they being mostly paid by the truck system.]

Brickmakers, 18s. to 20s. per 1000, for the labour only of moulding, setting, and burning.

These are the chief divisions of labour required on buildings; and, as it is a most important department, a few remarks are needful.

It must, in the first place, be observed, that the above rates do not determine the real value of the particular class of work, but simply what is paid for a particular class of labour. Most of the best artisans and labourers in the building department are at the gold fields; and the above rates, which, to each trade or calling, are nearly uniform, are now paid to men, the great majority of whom are third or fourth-rate hands. It is stated by our leading architects and contractors, that barely one-third of the men now employed in Sydney are effective, or fairly entitled to more than one-half of the wages demanded by them.

We now proceed with the other departments of trades in Sydney, (at the above date):—

Per Diem.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Brassfounders	9	9	to 12	0
Engineers and Millwrights	10	0	„ 15	0
Ironfounders	9	6	„ 10	0
Miners	10	0	15	0
Shipwrights	12	6	15	0
Tin-plate workers	9	0	10	0
Watchmakers	10	6	20	0
Whitesmiths	8	0	9	0
Blacksmiths	9	0	10	0
Wheelwrights	10	6	12	0
Coopers, piece-work, averaging	10	6	0	0
Coach-builders	9	0	12	3
Cabinet-makers	10	0	12	0
[First-rate hands will only take piece-work, at which they are now earning from £4. 4s. to £5. 10s. per week.]				
Upholsterers	8	6	„ 10	0
French polishers	8	6	„ 9	0
Labourers on wharves	10	0	„ 12	0
Tailors, first-class	10	0	„ 0	0
Do. second-class	7	6	„ 9	0
Do. third-class	5	0	„ 6	0
Butchers	8	0	„ 10	6
Bakers	9	0	„ 12	6
Gardeners (town)	6	0	„ 7	6
Compositors	12	0	„ 0	0
Pressmen	12	0	„ 0	0

Both pressmen and compositors get 1s. 6d. an hour overtime. On the morning papers most of the work is done by piece. The prices are, for Brevier, 1s. 3d. per thousand; for Nonpareil, 1s. 6d. per thousand.

Porters to warerooms, £1. per week, with board and lodging.

Shoemakers, piece-work, as follows :—

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wellingtons, closing	8	0	making	14 0
Princes, do.	5	6	do.	10 0
Cossacks, do.	3	0	do.	8 6
Strong kip, do.	1	0	do.	6 6
Shoes, closing and making				7 0

Ladies' Shoemakers are not to be procured.

In the rural districts the following rates of wages are now given; the great difficulty in procuring effective labourers in Sydney being still greater in the pastoral and agricultural districts.

	£	£
Shepherds, single men, per annum, with rations	25 to	35
Do. married, do. do.	35 „	42
Stock-keepers, single men, per annum, with rations	25 „	30
Do. married, do. with rations,	35 „	42
Bullock-drivers, per annum, with rations	39 „	40
Farm labourers, per annum, with rations	25 „	35
Shearers, with rations, 8s. to 8s. 9d. per score.		
Butchers, per annum, with rations and quarters	78 „	120
Gardeners, do. do.	35 „	42
Hut-keepers, do. do.	18 „	24
Floughmen, do. do.	30 „	39
House-servants, in town or country, per annum	26 „	52

Females of good conduct obtain ready and remunerative employment in every department. First-rate needle-women earn, at piece-work, from £1. 15s. to £2. 2s. per week. Ordinary sempstresses receive from 10s. to 15s. per week, at day work, and have all their meals provided for them. House-servants obtain from £14. to £30. per annum.

This, then, is the state of the labour market in the towns and pastoral and agricultural districts of this gold producing land. *Sydney Morning Herald, Sept. 18, 1852.*

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE GOLD-FIELDS.

THE time which has elapsed since Mr. Hargraves announced that extensive auriferous regions existed in the colony has done much less towards the development of the hidden golden treasures of this province of the island, than was at first anticipated. Not that the results of the gold-discoveries in Australia have been less remarkable on the whole, for they have surpassed the most sanguine expectations, but that in consequence of the diversion of population and mining enterprise to the wealthy placers of the sister colony, the diggings have here remained comparatively at a stand-still, while the development of the golden wealth of Victoria has proceeded at an extraordinary rate. In fact, during the last twelve months, ever since the attractions of Mount Alexander began to tell on the mining population, engaged at our diggings, we have made but little progress. With one or two exceptions, our present supplies of gold are derived from the very same localities whence they were received last year, the only difference being, that they are in diminished quantity. The only diggings opened up since that time, which have materially affected the increase in our production of gold, are those of Tambaroura and the Hanging Rock. Even these were known before that period, although their richness was not established. In

July, 1851, parties were at work in the vicinity of Bald Hill, and a short time after at the Dirt Holes; and about the same time gold had been found, although in small quantities, near the present diggings on the Peel. During the last twelve months, the Turon and the Braidwood diggings have retrogressed, partly in consequence of the incessant rains impeding, as they do, mining operations in the beds of creeks and rivers, but chiefly on account of the migration of the population to the Victoria gold-fields.

But although the full development of the auriferous deposits of any particular locality has been retarded, and the production of the precious metal by no means increased during this time, yet prospecting enterprise has never slumbered, and a vast number of new places has been added to the list of those where gold is known to exist, and where gold-digging is likely to form a remunerative pursuit. The attractions of other gold-fields have drawn away the great body of adventurers—those who had no other motive to attach them to the gold-fields here than a desire of gain. The large proportion of gold-diggers left are persons who have got a permanent interest in the country—inhabitants of the small inland towns—where their families are resident, or settlers on farms in which all their property is invested. These persons distributed over the face of the country, of course find it more profitable and convenient to devote their spare time to working at diggings in the vicinity of their dwellings, and consequently are ever on the search for gold near home. There is hardly a shepherd's hut in the interior, where there is the slightest probability that the precious metal may be found, which does not boast of a cradle and

other mining implements, devoted to use whenever opportunity offers.

The consequence is that, possessed as we are of some half dozen gold fields, whose extraordinary richness, although by no means fully developed, has yet been satisfactorily demonstrated; there are numerous localities throughout the colony where theoretical indications, and the brilliant success attending partial attempts at development, give the imagination ample scope for rioting in dazzling visions of a future cornucopia of golden grain; although there is still uncertainty enough to fan the fever of excitement and suspense.

The first locality which claims attention is Ophir, the parent diggings of the colony. Ophir may be regarded as belonging to what may be termed the Canoblas gold field. This mountain, which is nearly a mile in height above the level of the sea, and is composed chiefly of trap rock, is the centre whence a considerable number of streams, including the Summerhill Creek, take their rise, and flowing through a country composed chiefly of schists and quartzites, are more or less auriferous. Gold has been found throughout the length of the Summerhill Creek, from its source at the Canoblas to its junction with the Macquarrie, but most abundantly at Ophir, and Frederick's Valley, where the Wentworth diggings are situated. The gold is chiefly of a nuggetty description, and has been found in lumps of three or four pounds in weight. At the Wentworth diggings, very fine gold has been obtained in considerable quantities. The country about Ophir is very broken and rugged, and the deposit of gold lies, for the most part, in the bed of the creek, as the banks are too steep to allow of any extensive dry or bank diggings. Towards the Macquarrie, the banks of the creek

become still more rocky and abrupt, and there is not much likelihood of any extensive deposit of gold having been formed. The bed of the creek, at Ophir, has never been sufficiently dry to allow of its being profitably worked since the first rains after the opening up of the diggings on Fitzroy Bar. The population has never been very great since that period, and at present does not number over two or three hundred. The earnings at these diggings average from 10s. to 60s. per diem, and in some cases much more. There are many parties at work in the vicinity of the Ophir, and on creeks flowing from it. At the Tea Tree Creek and Brown's Creek, profitable diggings have been opened, and the earnings are from 10s. to 20s. a day, but the number of persons engaged at these places is not large. The whole of the region surrounding this mountain, which is situated some forty or fifty miles to the westward of Bathurst, may be regarded as a gold field comparatively unexplored, which, when the return wave of population and enterprise shall have set in to the gold fields of this colony, will occupy no insignificant position.

The Turon still claims the first position among the gold fields of the colony in point of richness and extent. Sofala, the township which has been formed at the richest locality on the Turon, is distant about twenty-five miles north from Bathurst. Fifteen miles above Sofala remunerative diggings were opened at what is called the Galf, and thence to the junction of the river with the Macquarrie, a distance of nearly forty miles, digging operations have been carried on with more or less success. The geological formation of the country is of schist, intersected by quartz veins of various thickness, but there are many other rocks present at different

portions of the river. The mountains are lofty, but with rounded summits and gently sloping bases, and the river flows for the greater part through a narrow valley between the ranges. The banks and slopes on the river side are seldom abrupt, and dry diggings consequently abound. The gold procured on the river itself is chiefly dust, generally of a very fine description, but coarse gold has been obtained in various places, and is abundant in the creeks and ravines opening into the river. Lumps weighing as much as seven pounds have been found. The yield of gold on the Turon has been in many instances most extraordinary. In several cases, from 80 to 100 ounces a day have been obtained by parties of three or four, for days together; in numerous instances from twenty to fifty ounces a day have been procured; and from five to fifteen ounces were at one time a common yield. The gold has been obtained in equal quantities in the bed of the river, and on the banks and slopes in its vicinity. In the former case, the greatest depth to which it is necessary to go for gold is from four to ten or twelve feet, but the continual presence of water has rendered it generally a matter of difficulty, and often of impossibility to get at the auriferous deposits. In the dry diggings the depths of the claims vary from the surface to forty or fifty feet, and the largest deposits of gold are got in the pockets and crevices of the bed rock. In the river diggings, the useless surface soil is generally wholly removed, but in the dry diggings, when a shaft has been sunk, the ground on the level of the gold deposit is tunnelled. The dry diggings on the banks of the Turon, are considered by many to be comparatively exhausted, but this is by no means the case in the opinion of more competent judges. As long as there was

a large population at the Turon, the spirit of enterprise constantly developed new ground; and new discoveries only ceased when very few were left to contend for the honour and profit of making them. Recently rich dry diggings have been discovered on the slope of the hill leading to the township of Sofala, and at not more than a pistol-shot distance from the town. This ground has been constantly traversed by eager miners for many months, and now it is proved to abound in deposits of the precious metal, which hundreds have left its vicinity to seek for at distant localities. The mining population of the Turon, numbered at one time certainly not less than 10,000, but at present the number of persons engaged in digging on the Turon and its tributaries does not exceed 1,200. The repeated disappointments and losses sustained in consequence of the floods, which have so frequently occurred at the Turon during the last ten or twelve months, and the inducements held out by other fields of enterprise, suffering less from the vicissitudes of the weather, have combined to cause the population of this district to dwindle to its present small amount. So rainy a season as has been experienced lately in this district, is a most uncommon occurrence, and there is every reason to expect that it will be succeeded by dry weather, during which the riches of the Turon will be more fully developed. The average yield at these diggings, is from 15s. to £3. or £4. a day, but the instances are numerous in which large sums are earned in a very short period. The labour required is great, whether in the bed or the dry diggings, as in the former the water has constantly to be contended with, and in the latter, conglomerate soil which has to be wrought through, is almost as hard as a rock. There is a vast field for mining enterprise at the Turon, both on the

river itself and on the table land in the vicinity, whence its tributaries take their rise. Many of these tributaries, Big Oakey and Little Oakey Creek especially, have yielded a large amount of gold. On the table land, where their source is, parties have been at work for months, making large earnings, and more extensive research would, undoubtedly, develop many rich deposits at this place. Along the Bathurst-road gold has been found, and at Wyagden Hill, mid-way between that town and the Turon, operations on a large scale, ~~which promise~~ to be successful, have been begun. There are miles in extent of this river, in which, although there is every likelihood that deposits of the precious metal will be found, no attempt has as yet been made to develop the probable riches. The bed of the river alone, auriferous as it is throughout, not to speak of the creeks or the hills in the vicinity, will afford an almost inexhaustible digging ground.

The Braidwood diggings next claim attention. They are confined chiefly to Major's and Bell's Creeks, which flow over the table land, above the valley of Araluen. They are not more than ten or twelve miles distant from the town of Braidwood. What is peculiar in these diggings is, the fact that they are situated to the eastward of the dividing range of mountains. These creeks before named, join the river Mofuya, which flows into the sea on the east coast, between Bateman's Bay and Twofold Bay. Diggings have been opened in the valley of the Araluen, but it is not thought that this place will pay even when the weather becomes as favourable as could be desired. Major's Creek, and its tributary, Bell's Creek, have amply repaid those engaged in mining operations on them, although the prevalence of water has very much

interfered, and still continues to interfere, with their effectual working. The country is not of so mountainous a description as the Turon, and from its general characteristics we are disposed to think that dry diggings are much more extensive there than is known or suspected. Slate and quartz abound in the vicinity, but the bed-rock is granite, and the gold has been found chiefly in what is regarded as decomposed granite. The probability, however, is, that its intimate connection with this decomposed rock is a comparatively recent occurrence, and that the granite is not to be regarded as the matrix. The prosperity of those diggings has been seriously retarded by the incessant rains which have fallen during the last several months, and the population has almost deserted them. At one time there must have been nearly 2,000 persons on Major's and Bell's Creeks, and at Araluen; but at present there are not, at most, more than 500. The average earnings at those diggings approximate to those at the Turon, and, as at the latter place, many instances of surprising good fortune have occurred. At Mungarlow, some fifteen or twenty miles from Major's Creek, remunerative diggings have been opened, and several nuggets have been found weighing up to 8 or 10 oz. At the Braidwood diggings the gold is generally fine, and it is reckoned to be very pure. Dry diggings have lately been opened on Major's Creek, in which many parties are procuring 4 or 5 oz. of gold a day. The comparative desertion of the Braidwood diggings has by no means been in consequence of the want of success at them. They have paid well, and as yet, their riches have been only very partially developed. There is everything to warrant the conclusion that an extensive and rich gold-field

exists in the vicinity, of which, as yet, only detached portions have been brought to light.

About thirty miles north of the Turon is the Meroo. The Meroo is a river, somewhat resembling the Turon in its general features, and in its banks and bars large deposits of gold have been found. The geological character of the country is similar to that of the Turon. The diggings already opened here extend several miles along the river. The yield of gold is generally large, and the gold itself coarse, with occasional large nuggets. Several points ~~on the Meroo~~ have turned out uncommonly rich. The golden reputation of the Meroo itself, however, is small in comparison to that of one of its tributary creeks, the Louisa, on whose banks such extraordinary masses of the precious metal have been found, and where the great nugget vein lies. The country about the Louisa is generally of a flat description, and the declivities of the creeks are mild. Mr. Green, assistant commissioner, in a report on the Western Gold Fields, has expressed his opinion that the auriferous ground available for dry diggings at this creek, extends for several miles to Campbell's Creek, and that on the table land, of which this forms a portion, 40,000 or 50,000 miners could find profitable employment. Considering that this table land includes the rich diggings at the Long Creek, the Dirt Hole, the Tambouroua and other creeks, we do not think that it is any exaggeration of the truth. At the Louisa, beautiful specimens of gold in the matrix are constantly procured, and nearly all the gold obtained here is coarse and not waterworn. Nuggets of large size have been discovered. The hundred weight every one is familiar with. Breuan's 27 lb. lump was found at the Louisa, as was also the largest waterworn nugget yet obtained, weighing

157 ounces, besides numerous other 'nuggets of less size, which it would be tedious to enumerate. The heavy rains have greatly interfered with all the diggings from the Meroo to the Turon, putting a stop to further operations, and compelling the miners to seek other places. This has been the case at Long Creek, the Devil's Hole, Pyramid Creek, Nuggetty Gully, Married Man's Creek, the Dirt Holes, &c. The gold at these places is coarse, and the earnings are in many cases very large. Generally speaking a man may make certain of securing 20s. a day, if the weather is favourable and he sticks to his work. The number of diggers on the Meroo, the Louisa, and the other places just named, may be put down at 1,500.

Between the Turon and the Pyramid, and parallel to both, lies the Tambaroura Creek, which disembogues itself into the Macquarrie several miles below the junction of the Turon. This place has lately taken an important position among the diggings for richness and extent, and bids fair to retain it. The diggings are situated chiefly on the table land, and the yield of gold, when the weather allows of operations being carried on, is very large. Many of the claims yield from two to twelve ounces a day. The gold is coarse, and lies at various depths from the surface. At Golden Gully, and the Bald Hill also, the diggings are very prolific, and to all appearance an extensive region teeming with golden wealth lies around.

Although mining operations are very much impeded by the frequent rains, which convert the table land into a swamp, yet it is feared that in dry seasons these diggings will be unworkable for want of water. The number of miners at work at the Tambaroura and the vicinity is probably about 1000.

The Hanging Rock may be regarded as among the number of those gold fields whose richness has been established. It is situated at the River Peel in New England. The Oakenville, Hurdle, and Oakley Creeks, flowing into the Peel, have been found to be rich in auriferous deposits, and a large tract of country in the vicinity presents the same indications. The number of diggers at the Hanging Rock is about 200, who are doing exceedingly well. As much as 20 ounces per diem have been obtained here, and dry diggings have been discovered which promise to be exceedingly rich. Although the richness of the Hanging Rock diggings has been established, the extent and probable productiveness are still matter of doubt. These diggings have shared in the general depression from the unfavourable state of the season, the Peel having been swept by tremendous floods.

On the remaining gold-fields, which are so only by anticipation, their riches not having been developed, and but little being known of their extent, the Abercrombie is one of the longest known, and probably one of the most important. Gold has been found in considerable quantities, not only in the river itself at the Sounding Rock, or Tarshish diggings, but also on its tributary creeks, the Tuena, Mulgunnia, Copperbamina, and Mountain Run. The country has the usual auriferous characteristics, somewhat resembling that in the vicinity of the Turon. The banks of the river, however, are more abrupt, and there are but few of those gentle slopes, so prolific in gold deposits at the former. The Abercrombie lies some forty miles to the southward of Bathurst, and forms the upper portion of the Lachlan River. Dry diggings abound on some of the creeks, the Tuena especially, and large earnings have been made here. The

gold is coarse. The field may be regarded as unexplored, as there are not more than 200 persons at work on it.

North of the Abercrombie, lie the diggings at Campbell's River, called Havilah, and those on the Gilmandyke and Davis Creeks, its tributaries. Gold was found at Havilah shortly after the discovery of the Turon diggings, but as the yield was small, the latter soon drew away the enterprising pioneers at Campbell's River. The gold procured was fine, and no locality has as yet been discovered where the deposits are so abundant as to entitle these diggings to consideration. On the Gilmandyke and Davis Creeks coarse gold is obtained, and there are promising indications of future richness. Perhaps about 100 miners are engaged at these diggings, who are making fair earnings.

There is about the same number of persons engaged in digging on Winburndale Creek, which rises on the table land a few miles to the northward of Bathurst, and, flowing in a north-west direction, falls into the Macquarrie several miles above the junction of the Turon. No very sanguine anticipations are entertained as to the productiveness of these diggings, where, however, fair wages are made by the few persons engaged at them. It is far otherwise, however, with the regions adjacent to the Macquarrie River. Gold has for a long time been found on this river, but the diggings hitherto opened have been isolated. Late researches, however, have brought to light auriferous deposits where the depth of washing-soil is ten and even fifteen feet, and these extend for miles along the banks of the river. The capabilities of such a gold-field may be guessed at where the supply promises to be almost inexhaust-

ible. Only in dry weather, however, can those be turned to account, as the river is a large and important stream during the greater part of the year, and from the prevalence of water the claims cannot be worked. The Macquarrie receives the tributary waters of the Winburndale, the Turon, Summerhill, Tamparoura, Pyramul, &c., all auriferous streams.

An extensive gold field has been discovered at the Billabong Range, which lies nearly a hundred miles to the west of Bathurst, between the waters of the Macquarie and Bogan. Schists and quartz are the constituent rocks, and specimens of gold in the matrix have been found. At the Snowy Mountains, to the southward, where many of the great streams of the colony, the Murrumbidgee, Murray, Snowy River, &c., take their rise, the researches of the Rev. W. B. Clarke, who was specially appointed by the Government to survey this district, have disclosed an extensive tract of auriferous country, and several localities which promise to be highly productive. The severity of the weather in these Alpine regions will, however, preclude mining operations being carried on for several months in the year. Over both these extensive portions of country the utmost done in gold digging are isolated efforts of a few prospecting parties, who are merely testing the capabilities of the country. In these alone a vast field for enterprise lies open to the world.

The last discovered diggings in this colony, which have excited the most sanguine expectations of their future productions, are Bingafa, situated on the Courangourra Creek, which joins the Gwydir, seventy miles to the north-west of Tamworth. The diggers who first discovered the treasures of this locality made extraordinary gains in a short time,

and the gold appeared to lie in such abundance on all sides as to be inexhaustible. The gold obtained has consisted chiefly of nuggets and coarse grain, very little worn. Nuggets weighing fourteen and sixteen ounces have been obtained. Upon the intelligence of the success of these diggings, a large number of persons started for them, and at present we dare say there are 500 on the ground. The diggings at present opened are situated on table-land, and it is feared that there will not be a sufficiency of water even in moderately dry seasons. The usual characteristics of a gold-bearing slate and quartz, abound, and a large extent of country in the vicinity has the same external appearance as that at the diggings at the Courangoura Creek. The country is very level, resembling the gold fields of Victoria, and the samples of precious metal obtained resemble those of Mount Alexander in the coarseness of the grains and their rich appearance. At various places between the Hanging Rock and Bingara, gold has been found, in some instances lying on the surface of the ground. The distance of this gold field from Maitland is upwards of two hundred miles in a north by west direction. A considerable quantity of gold has been received from it, and at present there is a large quantity in the hands of the miners.

According to the estimated number of diggers which we have stated as engaged in each locality, the total number at the places particularised is about 6,000. As there are numerous creeks and gullies throughout the country where miners are at work, but which are either too unimportant to be named, such as Jew's Creek, the Crudine, &c., or are altogether unknown, a considerable addition must be made to this number. If we add 2,000 more to the 6,000, it will include all these detached

miners, and any possible deficiency in our estimate of the number of diggers at the established gold fields. The total number of persons engaged in gold digging in this colony will then be about 8,000, which we are inclined to think is not far from the mark. With such an insignificant number of persons it is not possible that the golden wealth of the colony can be adequately developed, or that its vast resources can be turned to account. Looking at the extent of auriferous country which we possess, it is no exaggeration to state that there is ~~probable~~ employment at our gold fields for at least 200,000 persons, or double the population at present at the Victoria diggings.

There is one feature in the working of our *places* which must not be overlooked. Hitherto in the colony, and as yet in Victoria, mining operations have been conducted in the same comparatively rude manner and appliances as at first. A pick and shovel and a cradle, with probably the addition of a crowbar and pump, have constituted a miner's outfit. At the exuberant diggings of Victoria, indeed, thousands of the more successful miners never use a cradle, the richness of their claims in large gold preventing the necessity; but at the Turon and other places, the fineness of the gold dust, and the manner in which it is diffused throughout the soil, has necessitated the utmost skill and care in cradling. Lately, however, companies have been formed in this colony for the more effectual development of the wealth of the gold fields, by operations conducted on an extensive scale, directed by scientific skill, and aided by all the available mechanical appliances of modern art and industry. About half a dozen of these companies have already not only been formed, but have actually commenced operations. The Great

Nugget Vein Company are setting up expensive machinery, on the banks of the Louisa, for crushing the auriferous quartz of their claim at that locality. The Turon Golden Ridge Quartz Crushing Company are making preparations for developing the richness of an auriferous quartz vein on the Lower Turon, which promises the most splendid results. The Messrs. Samuel are proceeding successfully with their exertions to drain the water-hole at Qphir, and the success which has already attended their efforts, is an earnest of the rich harvest they are likely to reap. ~~The Australian~~ Mutual and the British Australian Gold Mining Companies have combined operations, for the purpose of working the alluvial claims on the Turon. They have secured valuable ground at Lucky Point, and have made considerable progress towards developing the golden deposits of an island in the bed of the Turon, contiguous to Erskine Point. It is rumoured that it is intended to purchase the whole of the bed of the river, at the junction of Oakley Creek, where extraordinary quantities of the precious metal have been found, and there is every reason to believe, that enormous deposits lie still undisturbed. At such diggings as those in the bed of the Turon, presenting great difficulties to the ordinary miner, the golden treasure can only be fully developed by the operations of companies, possessing an unbounded supply of labour, and bringing to their aid all the appliances of mechanical and scientific skill.

Gold has been found throughout more than eight degrees of latitude.—from Bingara at the north to the ranges near Cape Otway, in Victoria. There is good reason for believing that it exists throughout twelve degrees, as samples of the precious metal were found by the late Mr. Mitchell, son of the

surveyor-general, as far north as Mount Abundance at the Fitz-Roy Downs. The easternmost diggings in Australia yet discovered are those at the Hanging Rock, about 151 degrees of east longitude. A gold field has recently been discovered in South Australia, in about the 139 degree of longitude, twelve degrees to the westward; but whether gold will be found throughout the intervening country it is impossible to say. It has, certainly, been found as far westward, in Victoria, as the 143rd meridian, and Mount Cole and Mount William. The intellect in vain endeavours to estimate the stupendous mineral wealth diffused over this tract of country, and the imagination recurs to those fairy scenes in Arabian tales, where the youthful and delighted fancy wandered over mountains of solid gold, and through valleys lustrous with sparkling diamonds—scenes that the waking faculties see almost literally realized in the wilds of Australia.*

The following remarks of the Special Report of the "Sydney Morning Herald," on the Northern Gold Fields, are worth noticing:—

In the report I have made of the Northern Gold Fields, it is almost unnecessary to state that I can have no motive, no interest, in stating any thing but the truth.

I have nothing to do with either the production of, or the traffic in, gold, nor have I any material interests or friendly associations which would induce me to cry up any one district of the colony to the prejudice of another. The facts I have stated have been verified by my own observations, the

The total quantity of Gold shipped from Sydney, up to the 3rd of November, 1852, amounted to no less than THIRTY-FIVE TONS of the estimated value of upwards of THREE MILLIONS sterling.

opinions I have expressed are the result of honest convictions, after much careful inquiry and reflection.

Far less has it been my object to excite people either in this colony or elsewhere, to rush unadvisedly to the diggings I have described.

It is true I have not had the advantage of that comparative experience which the inspection of gold fields in other districts must afford, but I believe the digger who goes to the north must expect hardships fully equal to those experienced in any other quarter; that in the various localities his operations will be equally exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, and the climate, and that until a far more extensive development of the field is accomplished the uncertainty of success will be greater than ordinary. But while I would excite no false hopes, I certainly would say nothing that would discourage enterprise in the Northern Gold Fields. It is now an established certainty that gold working must, for a period of some years at least, become a settled occupation in Australia; and this being the case, it is equally futile and dangerous to discourage it by false representations, or partial statements. If gold seeking is to be an Australian occupation, it will be better that it shall be as profitable as possible, and on every account will it have to be regretted that any concealment should have been made of the richness or advantages of peculiar districts. Half the evils attendant upon the pursuit of gold will be averted, if the precious metal is found distributed in something like equal proportions over the whole of the great districts and provinces of this continent, for by this means, and this means alone, will the balance of population be maintained, and invested capital

and material interests be preserved from ruin and decay.

Under such views as these, however much I may doubt as to the general benefits to be derived from the production of gold in any country which abounds in other resources of wealth, it is a deep and solid satisfaction to find that the beautiful and productive district through which I have recently travelled does possess its treasures beneath the soil distributed with liberal hands.

That the gold fields of the north must in the appointed time hold out attractions which should avert the desolating influence which the abstraction of the population of the district of the Hunter, and its tributaries would set at work, I have no doubt, and when the importance of this district, in a natural point of view, is considered, this conviction is most gratifying.

It was in the earnest hope that I should arrive at this conviction that I commenced my late investigation, and although I am sure I have not allowed the desire for the fulfilment of that hope to bias my opinions; although the wish has not been "the father to the thought" which I have indulged in and expressed in these papers, it is in something of a gratulatory spirit that the hope is destined to be realized, that I conclude these observations.

The cities and towns of the Hunter need not fear the extinction or even interruption of that spirit of enterprise which is rapidly giving them a commercial importance, worthy of their British character and British origin. On the contrary, increased wealth, increased population, and consequent increased consumption, will only add to the returns of their thrifty industry and prudent enterprise. The valleys laden with corn, and the vineyards teeming with wine, may still flourish, the glory,

the adornment, and the subsistence of the country. The sheep upon the plains, the cattle upon the thousand hills, may still luxuriate in the glorious pastures which at present clothe the land with verdure and beauty.

But there is still a higher and better hope for this noble region in this discovery of gold. It may be hoped that it will give permanence, or something like it, to that beautiful production of the soil which during this season is so prodigally displayed. It was painful in the extreme, to hear, that the plains over which I passed, on which the sheep and even the cattle grazed almost unseen, hidden in the flowers and herbage, were but two short years ago, bare and bleak as the arid desert. That the creeks and streamlets now bubbling with freshness and fertility, were dry and unsightly gullies. That even the broad and rushing waters of the Peel, the Namoi, and the Manilla, had dwindled to mere rippling rills, the last resource of the dwellers on the thirsty plain.

Now, does not the most hasty reflection tell us that if the footsteps of civilization are not to be stopped in this country, this uncertainty of production cannot be perpetuated? Is not the danger great of leaving to the chapter of accidents the temptations of a district, which may for three or four years appear equal to the maintenance of millions of men, and tens of millions of sheep and cattle, whilst in other seasons of equal duration, it presents the aspect of a barren and unreclaimed wilderness. The very knowledge that it is subject to such variations is sufficient to deter the spread of population and the spirit of enterprise under ordinary circumstances. Nor can the most sanguine of the progress philosophers hope for any amelioration of this state of things under the pre-

sent system, without the intervention of some powerful agency. To attempt to stimulate fertility in the districts of the north by artificial irrigation, in their present wild and unsettled state, and for the mere purpose of promoting pastoral pursuits, would be an idle folly. Year by year are these pursuits rendering any such enterprise more wildly fallacious. Every year the destruction of the herbage which shades the land, the demands upon the streams and water courses, and more than all, the breaking up of the natural crust of the earth which to some extent resists the absorption of the internal moisture, by the flocks and herds which are spread over the territory, are adding to the natural difficulties. Along the sheep and cattle tracks, or the bridal paths, which are at present the only existing lines of communication in this wild, and which are travelled only by the squatter and his dependents, it is impossible to hope that the appliances of settled civilization can travel. But through the influence of gold, population may be gathered together in various spots throughout this vast country, and under the encouragement of wise and far-seeing legislation, towns may be planted, and peopled, instead of imaginary townships being laid out, as has been heretofore the case.

Between each of these towns, relations may be established which shall render them dependent one on the other; and thus the want of the steady means of communication will ensure the supply of those means. Along roads constructed on a proper principle, and especially coincidently with railways, water might be carried and distributed in such a manner as to prevent those fatal and ruinous effects which now ensue from seasons of drought. Patches of land, some large and some small, the homestead of the cottager and the great proprietor,

would be reclaimed from the arid sterility of one season, or the rank luxuriance of another. Houses, contentment, civilization, and independence would take the place of the hovels, repinings, and semi-barbarism, and serfdom, which, in spite of all that has been urged to the contrary, exists under the present squatting system. True, there is no feudal tyranny exercised, but the dwellers in the huts are sold as entirely to a thorough deprivation of social comforts by the wages given them for their labour, in pastoral pursuits, as are the negroes in a cotton or a sugar plantation. Deprived of the possibility of the enjoyment of many of the material blessings of social life, and of nearly all those domestic amenities which constitute social happiness, they for the most part become careless of that improvement in their condition which is within their power, in the reckless resignation with which they meet the absence of those which are beyond their reach.

Long before this great district, possessing as it does natural advantages undoubtedly great, can be brought under general cultivation, if even with all the advantages of modern science such a consummation should ever be arrived at, isolated settlements must be established. Towns must be planted with a vigorous and thriving population, which by its consumption shall give birth to enterprise in the culture of the land.

Till within the last two years, the very idea of settling and reclaiming the country in this way would have appeared visionary and preposterous — contrary to the experience of all countries, and to the dictates of common sense. To plant towns and communities in the centre of a barren waste, would have appeared the theory of a madman; but gold—the magician, will effect this wonderful work, if the legitimate advantages of

gold to a great, enterprising, and industrial country; are wisely worked out. In the way to find gold, the pathless forest, the opposing mountain, the dry and sandy plains, can oppose no effectual obstacle; all these have been and will be surmounted; but it remains for the wiser spirits of our race, the chosen advisers and guardians of the people, to chasten and restrain this eager enterprise; and when it has reaped its golden harvest, to encourage the garnering up into barns which will give security and independence to the reapers, and peace and stability to the prosperity of the country.

Whether these opinions be justified or not, whether the ultimate effects of gold discovery in any district are to be purely for the material advantage or disadvantage of the state, or whether they will extend through its whole social, moral, and economical conformation, I have no hesitation in asserting, that in the results produced by it, the northern districts of the colony must participate to the fullest extent, confident as I feel that it possesses a gold field fully equal in richness and expanse to this island continent.

Its treasures may not be for the present altogether unfolded—its development may be gradual or even slow. Those who thirst after gold with the greed and lust which no better or higher aspirations can assuage, and who in the search after it would sacrifice every other improvement of this material world, every progression and advantage of their common race, may turn with impatience and disgust from this field. To them the Turon and the Sacramento, may be the Allana and Parphars in which they alone will consent to wash; but the peaceful waters of the Hunter and its tributaries, will, I unhesitatingly foretell, in the long run, more effectually cleanse the leprosy of avarice.

THE CITY AND PORT OF SYDNEY.

THE departure of the steam ship *Permosa* affords us another eligible opportunity of submitting to our English friends the undeniable claims of Sydney to be considered the chief point of destination and departure of the great oceanic mail, treasure, passenger, and traffic routes between Great Britain and Australasia. In recurring to this subject, we again distinctly disclaim the idea of examining the question as to the courses and termini of these routes as one to be decided by local claims and isolated interests. We regard it as one which must be determined by facts and certain fixed principles, universally and permanently applicable; and in reminding the distant friends of these colonies that Sydney has become, not alone through the advantage of its geographical position, but by the industry, energy, and spirit of enterprise of its citizens, the centre of an extensive commercial system, the mainspring of Australian traffic, the regulator of value and exchanges in the critical era of our golden discoveries, and the greatest mart of trade in the southern hemisphere, we feel satisfied that they will earnestly co-operate with us in our endeavours to secure for this city and port priority, as well as rapidity and regularity, in a matter of such momentous interest and importance as oceanic communication with Europe, whether by steam or otherwise. "

There is perhaps no great and important service

at the present time requiring more to be guided by some fixed principles than that which ought to be carried out in communications between the mother country and these colonies. With respect to steam postal intercourse and traffic between them, two great routes are now open, and a third is on the eve of opening: 1, the eastern route, by Suez and Singapore; 2, the Cape of Good Hope route; 3, the western route, by Panama and New Zealand. Now, if we ask, what has been the great object of the projectors of each of these lines? The answer will be, "To bring Great Britain, the centre of the whole system, into the earliest and most profitable communication with her Australian dominions."—That the line by Suez and Singapore was chosen by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, not for this object, but *solely* because it would afford a communication between the East Indies and Australia, and at the same time foster and develop our intercourse with China, is a matter of history. (Vide Sir C. Wood's speech in the House of Commons, July 25, 1850.)—That the great object in view cannot be achieved by the Cape line steamers, which are to make the miserable penal settlement at Swan River their first port of arrival, and Sydney, the capital of Australasia, the last, it is superfluous to repeat:—But that the Western or Panama route, by effecting a saving in point of time of at least thirty-five days over either the Singapore or Cape routes, will bring London, the seat of Australian commerce, into "the earliest and most profitable communication with each other," and so accomplish what all parties profess to have in view, we have lately proved to demonstration, and have not heard a single dissentient voice. The geographical position of Sydney, the large popula-

tion whose interests she represents; her extensive commerce, her widely-spread maritime connections, and the general dependence of the sister colonies upon her well-being, are the true grounds upon which a decision should be taken, or a preference given, in respect to the steam mail routes. Upon no other grounds do we put forth her claims, in so far as steam intercourse is concerned, because we should consider it utterly vicious in principle to allow the local interest of any particular colony to overbear those of such other colonies as may be concerned in or affected by this, to us, new channel of oceanic communication; and therefore, on national grounds alone, we again maintain that the preference must be given to the western route; and before we conclude this branch of our subject we will request attention to the following significant passage from the *London Times*, in its review of the debate to which we have referred above:—

“The Panama route must become, at no distant time, England’s great highway to and from the islands in the South Pacific, New Zealand, and New South Wales and its dependencies. There can be no doubt at all about this matter. Public opinion is fully impressed with the conviction that the western route is the only one worthy of adoption for these important parts of the world, embracing as it does by far the most direct, expeditious, and certain method of communication with our vast colonial possessions at the antipodes. Considerations of expense to the public service may induce the Singapore or eastern plan to be carried out; but in that case one thing is certain—that, if intercourse is not extended, from Panama to Sydney by means of English steamers, the Americans will speedily accomplish it; and even then the traffic for England must eventually be brought upon the line of steamers from Chagres to England.”

Having said this much in respect to the route and terminus by which the prior claims of Sydney,

as regards steam intercourse, will be effectually acknowledged, we shall advert to the peculiar advantages which Port Jackson offers to commercial and maritime enterprise, wherever it is developed. New South Wales now boasts the simplest, the shortest, and the most liberal Tariff in the world. It contains no provision for bounty, protection, or prohibition of any kind whatever. In the language of the Colonial Secretary, when he introduced the New Duties of Customs Bill, which, on the 5th of August last, passed into a law, "it makes no difference between the produce of one country and the produce of another; it treats all countries alike. It entirely discards the objectionable system *cf. ad valorem*; it narrows the range of taxable commodities within the smallest possible limits; and, with the view of distributing taxation fairly over the whole community, and thereby easing its individual pressure, it taxes the articles of luxury most generally and largely consumed." But let our Tariff speak for itself. Its levies are limited to the following duties:—

	s.	d.	
Malt liquors of all sorts,	0	1	per gallon, in wood.
Ditto do.	0	2	" Bottle.
Coffee, chocolate, and			
cocoa,	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	per lb.
Currants, raisins, and			
other dried fruits . . .	0	2	"
Brandy and Gin . . .	6	0	per gallon.
All other proof spirits .	4	0	"
Liqueurs, cordials, brand-			
died fruits, and strong			
waters	6	0	"
Refined sugar	3	4	per cwt.
Unrefined do.	2	6	"
Molasses	1	8	"
Tea	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	per lb.

Manufactured Tobacco		
(other than cigars and snuff)	1	6 per lb.
Until the 31st December, 1853, and thereafter	0	8 „
Cigars and snuff	2	0 „
Wine, in Wood or Bottle	1	0 per gallon.

Let the producers, manufacturers, and shippers in distant lands compare this, our Tariff of eight classes, with the formidable catalogue of taxable commodities which the custom-house of every other port in the universe exhibits, and they will be prompt to acknowledge the verity of the Colonial Secretary's prediction when, in his speech already referred to, he said that "this Tariff will open out a new era in the commerce of New South Wales; give an impetus to foreign enterprise, hitherto impeded by restrictive duties, and secure to the city and port of Sydney a steady and extensive increase in its trade with other countries."

But our local Legislature has not stopped here in its wide and liberal resolve to give to the Port of Sydney every possible attraction, and substantial advantage to all the trading and maritime countries. Previous to the present session of council various heavy dues and fees were made payable by shipping entering this harbour; namely, fees to harbour masters for repairing on board vessels entering, and for the removal of vessels from one mooring to another; fees towards the maintenance of light houses; charges made payable on the entry inwards, and clearance outwards of vessels; and tonnage dues for the support of the water police establishment. By an act of the present session, (16 Vic. No. 8.) which received the royal assent on the 19th of August ult., it is set

forth, that it will be of advantage to the trade and commerce of New South Wales that these several charges, dues, and fees now payable on shipping, should be abolished; and it enacts, therefore, that so much of the several acts of council which impose and relate thereto shall be repealed forthwith. Thus it will be seen, that whether as regards customs duties, or harbour dues and fees, the great principles of free trade and free navigation have been carried out to the utmost extent by the legislature of New South Wales, and the port of Sydney is thereby enabled to offer advantages and facilities unequalled by any other port of commerce in either hemisphere.

It is with no invidious feeling of rivalry, but purely in justice to ourselves, that we here briefly refer to the very different spirit which pervades the authorities of the sister colony of Victoria, in regard to the shipping which arrives in Port Philip. Whilst our legislators were cordially acceding to the above liberal measure, proposed by the local executive, the government of Victoria was engaged in preparing a bill by which, on the ground of expediency, it is proposed to add considerably to the stringency of existing British Imperial and local acts that relate to shipping arriving in the ports of that colony; and to import into the statute book of Victoria, some of the most vexatious and prohibitory provisions of the American harbour code. It proposes, that, for every statute adult arriving in Port Philip, whether from beyond the seas, or from the sister colonies, masters of ships shall pay into the hands of an appointed officer the sum of five shillings; that no entry shall be deemed to have been legally made until such payment is officially acknowledged; that any master neglecting to pay such rate shall be liable to a penalty

not exceeding £100 nor less than £50; that every master shall execute jointly and severally with two sufficient sureties; a bond to the Queen in the sum of £75 for every invalid passenger who is likely to become a charge upon the public; conditionally to indemnify and hold harmless the colony of Victoria, or any of its public institutions, from any expense or charge which shall or may be incurred within the space of five years from the execution of the bond for the maintenance, &c., of such passengers; and that the penalty for refusing to execute such bond shall be £100 or not less than £50, in addition to the £75 named in the bond. Thus do Port Philip and Port Jackson present totally different aspects for the consideration of merchants, shipowners, and interesting colonists. In the one every possible due, fee, and charge are rigorously exacted; in the other they have been altogether abolished.

Nor in Port Jackson are the attractions for traders and shippers confined to the liberality of the customs and harbour regulations. No charges for lightering are needed; for ships of 1500 tons lie close to the noble wharves and massive stone built stores, which extend from the Circular Quay far down Darling Harbour; and the charges for wharfage and storage are upon a scale in perfect keeping with the liberal spirit of our public commercial code. Perhaps there are few things which astonish a stranger upon landing at the Circular Quay more than the degree of fruition, and the still greater degree of promise, presented by the costly piles of masonry which have risen, and are still rising, in every direction near the available approaches to the harbour; and the wonder at the extent and style of these wholesale receptacles for the commodities brought hither from all quarters

of the globe; is increased when he beholds the architectural displays of George and Pitt Streets, in every variety of classical and substantial elevation. In the tendency and character of our architectural and decorative taste, it will be strange if he perceive not the reflection and embodiment of the general mind and character of our enterprising citizens; whilst in the peace and order which still continue to prevail, both day and night, in our busy thoroughfares, the same picture may be drawn in the exciting gold days of 1852, as Count Strzelecki drew when he landed, full of prejudices, as he admits, upwards of ten years ago:—

I found that night, in the streets of Sydney, a decency and quiet which I have never witnessed in any of the ports of the United Kingdom. No drunkenness, no sailors' quarrels, no appearance of prostitution, were to be seen. George-street, the Regent-street of Sydney, displayed houses and shops modelled after the fashion of those of London: but nowhere did its lamps, or the numerous lights in its windows, which reflected upon the crowd, betray any of those signs of a corrupt state of society common to the streets of other capitals. Since then, how many nights like the first have I not witnessed, in which silence, the feeling of perfect security, and the delicious freshness of the air, mingled with nothing that could break the solitary walk!

We shall probably be accused in some quarters, and suspected in others, of painting the metropolis of Australia *coleur de rose*, and of extravagance in our statements as to its present, and predictions as to its future. To such a charge we shall offer but very few words. In 1834, the Rev. C. P. N. Wilton, of Newcastle, furnished a graphic description of Sydney, for the N. S. W. Post Office Directory for that year. In his elegant illustration of the then rising prospects of the colony, he remarked, "Although Australia cannot boast a Pactolus, yet

the very *sand* in the suburbs of her capital may be turned into *gold*, many tons of this mineral being now shipped to England, in consequence of the discovery of its possessing the rarest qualities for the manufacture of glass." We remember that this was deemed an extravagant exaggeration at the time; but what would have been said if any one had ventured to predict then, as we are able to declare now, the shipment in Port Jackson, in the space of seventeen months, (from June 3rd, 1851, to Nov. 3rd, 1852.) of Thirty-five Tons of pure gold, washed from the sands of many an Australian Pactolus, or dug from the veins of an equally rich Mount Timolus, and whose value is estimated here at Three Millions sterling? With this astounding fact before us, the result of but an imperfect knowledge of the wonderful resources of this land; whilst it would be unwise to be too sanguine, it would also be ungrateful to remain silent, and to refrain from offering bright predictions for the future.

PRESENT STATE OF MELBOURNE.

The quantity of gold exported since October, 1851, represents a value of £8,863,477, and all these accounts, we are assured by the "Melbourne Herald," are rather under than overstated. These astounding results have been obtained by unskilled labourers, working without either plan or concert.

The geological position, as well as the many interesting points of this town and neighbourhood, are well known to a large portion of the inhabitants of these colonies; but doubtless there are thousands of persons constantly arriving in Sydney from all parts of the world, to whom a general description of these matters would not prove uninteresting. Feeling assured of this, I would commence by stating that Melbourne is about 600 miles from Sydney, and about ——— miles in the same direction from Bass's Straits. The first approach to the land is through a bay of considerable extent, and offering but little shelter from the strong winds which at various periods of the year infest the coast. After crossing this bay, we arrive at the Inner Heads, on the N.W. side of which is erected a lighthouse. Passing through these heads, the channel for some two or three miles is narrow, about two miles in width; after leaving which we find ourselves in the Middle Bay, and we have now a run across the harbour, if it can be so termed, of about forty miles, ere we are safely anchored in Hobson's Bay, off William's Town. The whole extent of these extensive bays is flanked by a very large extent of country perfectly flat, and of a soil scarcely to be

surpassed in richness. These flats, or, perhaps, more properly speaking, the flat, is many miles in breadth, until it is lost in the distance, where it is walled in by an amphitheatre of hills. The first division of the town and the parts adjacent form the approaches to the celebrated gold-fields.

Save the crowded state of the streets, the continual bustling of the people, the high-pressure physical power called into action by every one, there is little to indicate that we are in the great centre or capital of the Victoria gold mines. There is not that display of gold in the shop windows which we see in Sydney; but in almost every other shop the precious metal is bought, and it is not till we get behind these establishments that we can form any notion of the immense quantity of auriferous wealth constantly pouring into the town. Men, whose weather-beaten countenances—indicative of the severe toil through which they have passed—with bags under their arms containing 20, 30, 40, or even 60 pounds of the dust; women, who have shared in their labours, with reticules filled with bags of the precious metals, may hourly be seen disposing of their gains, and struggling with the merchant for an extra penny per ounce. A flaming placard, big as the little shop window, announces that the shopkeeper wants “10,000 ounces this day, the highest price given.” How can he buy it? he cannot, perhaps, scrape together as many shillings. He chances it. The great bullion merchant turns over his little capital so many times a day, always purchasing at two or three pence per ounce below par, from some of the careless diggers who are not over particular; and thus the 10,000 ounces are always wanted. Large sums of money are thus made, the seller being often dispirited at being bandied about through the

muddy streets with heavy bags of gold under his arm, and thus often gets rid of his troublesome charge at a sacrifice. Some of these merchants often wrong each other by stating that the laws of gravitation differ in some of the shops; and I certainly have seen nuggets weigh differently in opposing scales. But if the external and more tangible evidences of wealth are not so great in Melbourne as in Sydney, there are other features indicating the fact which are not quite so pleasing. Drunken men and women stagger about, or ride through the streets in cabs, at a guinea per hour, never under, with hundreds, nay, some with thousands of pounds in their pockets in cheques and notes. Or, go into the Bank of Australasia, watch for an hour, and see the immense amount paid over the counter in that time. Examine the class of persons, many of them are of decent exterior, others are drunk, and there is an air of dissipation telling of the lowest haunts—men whose ragged garments and lacerated countenances tell of the terrible debauch they have still left unfinished. See how they grasp the notes handed to them by the cashier; they do not trouble themselves to count them. Their drunken companions are waiting for them outside; and did we follow them for the remainder of the day and night, we should find them in the lowest taverns; if they escape the drugged liquors prepared for them by their friends, they have another ordeal to pass through—they have to make their way home; but in a dark spot (for there is no gas amidst all their wealth) they are “bailed up.”

Now, in every peaceful and well regulated town, like Sydney, with its 50,000 citizens, who can walk through any part of the city, day or night, unmolested, this system of “bailing up,” when explained, can scarcely be credited. The attacked

is generally a drunken successful digger, whose movements have generally been watched during the day. The time for carrying out this operation is after dark; the place some secluded spot by which the unfortunate man has to pass on his way home. The gang generally consists of three men, two of whom advance, and, seizing the arms of the person attacked, pull them behind him, while the third, holding him by the throat, pins or "bails" him up against the wall, and thus he is robbed. The assault is invariably so sudden, and the plan so well arranged, that the whole affair is over before the unlucky man thinks of resistance. There appears to be a degree of bold bravado in some of these attacks most pleasing to numbers of that good natured portion of the public who are participating in the enormous distribution of wealth from the gold-fields.

In the midst of this chaos—this unsettling of everything—and while the large proportion of the classes of great and small capital are making rapid fortunes, there are pleasing evidences of confidence in the future stability of the colony. Not the least significant of these signs is the fact that the enormous wealth gained at the mines is chiefly invested in the purchase of real property—the land. This, it cannot be questioned, is one of the healthy signs of the times. Hence it is that the land, especially in the neighbourhood of Melbourne and Geelong, has risen enormously in value. Building ground in one of the principal streets in the capital was recently sold at £100. per foot; and on the day on which I now write, quarter-acre suburban allotments were sold at the rate of £3,000. per acre. Speculation, of course, runs very high, and many capitalists are, by the purchase and sale of land, making rapid fortunes.

The following is an abstract of the revenue for the quarter ending 30th of September, 1852. As might be expected, it exhibits a vast increase in the revenue over the corresponding quarter of last year. The totals stand thus:—

	Quarter ended 30th Sept., 1851.			Quarter ended 30th Sept., 1852.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Revenues	30,322	16	10	99,148	16	21
Crown Revenue	22,871	9	3	306,191	4	6
Total Revenue	53,191	6	1	462,340	1	5
				53,191	6	1
Increase (869 per cent)				£409,145	15	4

The chief items of increase are, of course, from the Land Sales and the Gold. The former yielded only £10,016 18s. 6d. during the quarter in 1851; but no less than £267,754 4s. 10d. in the past year—an increase of something more than a quarter of a million sterling. The gold licenses yielded, in the past year £60,560 7s. 3d. besides £10,897 14s. 11d. for escort fees, in all, £91,458 2s. 2d., which all comes under the head of increase, no revenue from gold having been received into the Treasury up to the end of September, 1851. The licenses and leases for Crown Lands increase from £1,858 11s. 3d. to £2,976 3s. 0d.; and the Timber Licenses show £673 against £320 10s. in the preceding September quarter.

Almost every item under the head of General Revenue shows a very large increase. In the Customs, for instance, the duties on spirits have risen from £12,235 15s. 1d. to £55,378 8s. 10d., an increase of 350 per cent. Tobacco yielded £5,280 6s. 9d. in the September quarter of 1851, and £15,047 3s. 9d. in the last quarter—nearly three times as much. The ad valorem duties realized

£5,252 2s. 11*d.*, in 1851, and duties on wine, tea, and coffee, although altered by the new tariff recently come into operation, have yielded a total of £4,824 10s. 5*d.* Port and harbour dues show an increase of £2,987 3s. 1*d.*; auction duties rise from £273 7s. 11*d.*, to £879 3s. 10*d.*; publicans' licenses, from £1,222 18s., to £1,729 16s.; fines and forfeitures, from £222 12s. 4*d.* to £3,121 11s. 4*d.*; and the variable items ranging under the head "Fees," all show balances in favour of 1852. The Post-office remains about stationery, the items being £2,523 5s. 5*d.* and £2,638 5s. 3*d.* respectively.

The total result is, therefore, highly satisfactory—the quarter's revenue rising to nearly half a million sterling, or at the rate of nearly two millions per annum. Besides the sums given above, there are sums standing over, which have been collected but not paid in during the quarter. These are, from land sales £45,551 16s. 6*d.*, and from gold about £69,563; but these will be included in the next quarter.

The only item decidedly unsatisfactory is the gold licenses. Adding the amounts paid in and not paid in during the quarter, we get a total of £150,128 7s. 3*d.*; but of this £40,332 13s. 11*d.* stood over from the previous quarter. The license fee, therefore, amounted to £109,795 10s. 4*d.* for the last quarter. Now it is admitted on all hands that there cannot be less than 60,000 persons at the diggings (we purposely take the lowest estimate), and the amount that number of licenses would yield is, £270,600., or nearly two-and-a-half times the amount actually received.

THE ADELAIDE GOLD-FIELDS.

'WHAT we before assumed under this head as probable, now turns out to be a reality. We have a workable gold-field in South Australia, about twenty-three miles of Adelaide.

Subjoined is the Report of the Colonial Secretary :

ADELAIDE, August 24, 1852.

"SIR - I have the satisfaction to be enabled to report to your Excellency, that I left Adelaide yesterday morning, accompanied by Captain Freeling, Surveyor-General, and guided by a man named Chapman, who has put in a claim for the reward of £1,000 offered by government for the discovery of a profitable gold-field in South Australia. I arrived about two o'clock at a spot in the Stringy-bark Forest, about two miles beyond the bridge over the Onkaparinga, at Warland's public-house. There, in the presence of many persons, I witnessed the washing of several tin-dishes of surface-soil taken indifferently from various places. In all except one gold-dust was obtained. I filled a dish myself, making a selection from the spot away from where another person had been : and on the earth being washed, gold-dust was obtained. I then requested three men, of whom Chapman was one, to take the earth from any place of their own selection, and wash until they had obtained an ounce of gold. This was accomplished in less than an hour, with no other appliances than one spade and three tin dishes. I am quite satisfied that the soil for some acres at least is highly auriferous, and that there is every probability of this becoming a profitable working. As a country of similar formation extends to a considerable distance to the north, and stretches away to the south towards Encounter Bay, Cape Jervis, it is not unreasonable to suppose that gold-fields may be discovered in other places, probably, also, in Kangaroo Island. The formation of the gold-field upon which I am reporting consists of sand, quartz, and iron-stone, in a state of gravel, resting immediately on clay, with a rocky

substratum of sandstone. As this formation is indicated in this province generally by the growth of the stringybark tree, I am induced to suppose that all our stringybark forests will be found to be auriferous.

"Mr. Ponney, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, joined me on the ground, and I have left him with a small party of police and a surveying party. He was issuing licences to dig for gold when I left at half-past five o'clock the same day, and numbers of diggers were preparing to take out licences this morning, which will fairly test the value of the field. I am not able to state with certainty whether the spot where I saw the gold raised is private property, or belongs to the Crown, although I believe it to be Crown property. The party of surveyors will ascertain the fact to-day, and I have directed Mr. Bonney to send in a special report to-morrow of the result of to-day's operations.

"I have, &c,

"B. T. FINNISS."

"To the Lieutenant-Governor."

"P.S.—The distance from Adelaide is about twenty-two miles, and the gold-field is intersected by the main road on the south-east."

The largest quantity raised by any one party at the Echunga diggings, however, does not exceed 5 lbs. to 5 and a half pounds in weight. Many smaller parcels have been exhibited, say of two, three, and four ounces each, up to as many pounds, but it is exceedingly difficult to get at any thing like the aggregate amount raised, owing to the nearness of the diggings to Adelaide, and the readiness with which the earnings of the diggers is turned into cash, without the intervention of third parties, either in the shape of brokers, or a government escort. At a moderate calculation, however, it cannot be less than 75 lbs. in weight. This, certainly, is no great thing, as compared with the Victoria diggings; but it must be remembered that it is equal to £3,000. sterling, and that the Echunga diggings have only just been opened, and that too at the most unpropitious season of the

year. At first, little was attempted at Echunga beyond surface washing; but the parties now at work are beginning to sink steadily on the rock, and not without a fair share of encouragement. Most of them are old Mount Alexander gold diggers, and their belief is that they can do better at Echunga than at Mount Alexander, or they would not stop another hour. This is the true test of the value of the discovery; and although there is nothing great to report of it at present, we shall probably ere long have to speak of it in altogether different terms. Some fine nuggets of Echunga gold are to be sent home by the *Australian*, weighing from two pennyweights to half an ounce and an ounce each. The largest yet discovered is about an ounce and a-half in weight.

Camp, Echunga Gold-fields, Nov. 6, 1852:

SIR,

I have the honour to state, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that since my last week's report, thirty-nine licenses have been issued, making the total issue, up to this day of the present financial month, fifty-five, as thus shown:—

Previously reported	16
Since issued	39
Total	55

Few people have left during the past week, and few have arrived. Those who are now employing themselves upon the diggings appear to be more settled in their purpose of remaining.

Many cases of success attending the diggings on the hill, which has been named "Windlass Hill," have been reported to me. Operations have extended from thence into the gully, which has been named (from the person who first discovered gold there) "Peltas's Gully."

The nugget weighing 4 oz. 12 dwts., which I have had the honour of submitting for his excellency's inspection, was discovered by Mr. Scown, of the Green Hills.

On Tuesday, one Christian Grenbourg complained of a man (who stated his name to be John Paul) for interfering with him in his work, and who he suspected had robbed or intended to rob him. As Grenbourg could not positively say that he had lost any part of his gold, and disclaimed that which was found in the possession of Paul, the charge of larceny could not be sustained. The circumstances of the case were of such a nature, added to which Paul had been loitering about the diggings under the protection of a license surreptitiously obtained, as to justify my ordering him off the diggings, and refusing him a license. I may mention that this is the first and only charge affecting the honesty of persons engaged on these diggings.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

A. J. MURRAY,

Assistant Gold Commissioner.

To the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

ADELAIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held to receive a report from the committee. The principal feature of the report is a clear and very correct statement of the commercial circumstances of the colony during the past eventful year, which I extract. It will put English readers in possession of the real facts of the case in as concise a form as possible, while it has the advantage of being authenticated by the respectable body from which it emanates. The report is the production of the chairman of the chamber, G. Elder, Esq., of the firm of Messrs. A. L. Elder and Co. :—

“The past year has been one of unusual interest and anxiety to the mercantile community, on account of the

unprecedented crisis which has taken place in the affairs of this province. During the period which has elapsed since the last meeting of this body, the colony has been, to all human appearance, on the verge of ruin. During that interval we have seen credit destroyed, trade paralysed, the public finances undermined, and a feeling of alarm and insecurity universally prevalent; and if, while meeting, as we do at this time, under happier auspices, the future is not altogether relieved from doubt and difficulty, we may, at all events, take courage from the past, and, with renewed confidence in the stability of our colonial interests, prepare ourselves to grapple successfully with any emergency that may arise.

"Among the various measures which have engaged the attention of the committee during their tenure of office, it is only fitting that a prominent place should be assigned in their report to the Bullion Act, which was framed by the legislature to mitigate or avert the crisis to which allusion has been made; and in order to explain the nature and effects of this celebrated ordinance, it will be necessary to take a brief review of the circumstances of the colony prior to its enactment.

"So far back as September last, accounts reached this colony of the amazing productiveness of the Victoria Gold fields, and a growing desire to migrate thither began to manifest itself on the part of our population. The Ballarat fields, which then attracted the enterprise and cupidity of the digger, shortly resigned the palm to those of Mount Alexander, which greatly excelled the former in richness; and when, in December, tidings succeeded, tidings of the startling fertility of the new gold fields, a fever of excitement was created, and it became apparent that nearly all our able bodied labourers would be drawn away to a scene so calculated to intoxicate the imagination and fill the mind with visions of independence. Ship after ship, freighted with its human cargo, sailed from our shores, while the route overland was crowded with adventurers proceeding in the same direction.

"It is impossible to form anything like a correct estimate of the number who left the colony during this exodus of its inhabitants, as, apart from those who made their way overland, and respecting whom no numerical data exist, the custom-house returns of the emigration by sea, afford no criterion of the actual number embarked, as such was the rush of passengers that almost every ship took many more on board than was indicated by her clearance.

It is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say that at least 15,000 to 20,000 individuals left South Australia during the prevalence of the gold mania! and when it is considered that these were all adults—the flower of our labouring classes—and that the entire population of this colony did not exceed 70,000 souls, the nature and extent of so serious a deprivation of its productive energy will at once be apparent.

“The natural result of these sudden and unexpected events was arcanic, which was rendered all the more severe and overwhelming on account of the unsound and tottering state of our commercial position, even before the gold discoveries interfered to increase the general embarrassment. For more than two years past there had been considerable overtrading, which was beginning to entail its usual consequences, such as glutted markets, an undue amount of paper in float, a system of renewing bills and of mutual accommodation, discounting on ‘Change at usurious rates of interest, and those shifts which are generally premonitory of a coming crash.’ Speculation in the shares of bubble mines had been carried to a fearful excess, and many of our most cautious traders had been drawn into the vortex to their serious loss and impoverishment. The general unhealthy state of our colonial affairs was proved by the fact that bills were offered for private discount at 30 to 40 per cent. per annum, and money was being freely taken on mortgage at 15 to 20 per cent. at a time when the employment of capital could not by any possibility justify such a proceeding, and few, perhaps, will be prepared to dispute that, irrespective altogether of the derangement introduced into our affairs by the migration of the inhabitants, the present year would not have passed away without great commercial pressure and distress.

“But the crisis which now threatened the colony was incalculably aggravated by the loss of our population. For a time it seemed that the props of our material prosperity were about to give way. The streets of Adelaide were deserted; houses were abandoned by their tenants; rents fell, and property became unmarketable. The shops of our retailers presented their tempting wares in vain. There was a general arrest put on all business, and this at a time when the stock of merchandize in the market was unprecedentedly heavy, and when the bills engagements of the mercantile community were larger probably than ever they had been before. To add to the panic the banks were subjected to a steady and alarming drain of specie.

Every emigrant carried away his savings in gold, and it soon became apparent that the stock of gold in the colony could not long hold out under the process of rapid exhaustion to which it was exposed. The banks were thus placed on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, being compelled to redeem their notes in specie, they were under the imperative necessity of restricting their issues, and consequently, their discounts, if they would keep faith with their creditors. On the other hand, if they attempted to contract their discounts at a time when the commercial classes were subjected to a pressure which only the most liberal accommodation could enable them to sustain, a general crash was inevitable. At this juncture, as if to mark with greater emphasis the signs of the times, a vessel arrived at Port Adelaide from Melbourne with a number of our colonists on board, who, after a few weeks' successful digging at the gold-fields of Victoria, had brought back with them to this colony gold dust to the value of £50,000. This they were desirous of converting into money, but such was the straitened condition of the money-market, that purchasers could not be found for it. A portion of it was eventually sold at 55s. to 56s. per oz.; the price at Melbourne being 60s. at the time, and the remainder was carried back to Victoria. Nothing could more significantly attest our critical situation than the circumstances here referred to. If on the grounds of sound policy there was one object more than another which, at this unfortunate period it was desirable to effect, that object was to attract and secure by every lawful means the return of our own colonists, who would thus be induced to spend and invest their earnings in this colony; and yet, with every disposition on their part to meet our wishes, they were met on the very threshold by a barrier which threatened to bring about as practical an exclusion as if, in imitation of an imperial ukase, we had enacted a law to forbid their return. We were unable to buy their gold—we were unable to supply them with a circulating medium, and they must therefore remain where they were.

It was at this time, when ruin was staring every one in the face, and when there had already been unmistakable symptoms of an approaching ruin on one of the banks, that the committee held a conference with the managers of the three banking institutions with reference to the measures to be adopted to meet the appalling crisis. At this meeting the difficulties of our position were fully discussed. The radical cause of the extreme financial em-

barrassment which existed was acknowledged to be the sudden and uncontrollable efflux of specie which was gradually contracting the circulation into dimensions totally inadequate to meet the wants of the community. It was considered that if the banks were permitted by law to base their issues for a time on uncoined gold at such a price as would leave a safe margin for the transmission of the gold to England, and its replacement in coin, that perfect security would be afforded to the public, and a palliative, if not a complete corrective, presented to the disorder which prevailed. It was perceived that such a measure, if devised, would enable the banks to afford the required banking accommodation to their customers, so that every really solvent man should have an opportunity of retrieving his position. It was anticipated that a currency, so free and yet so legitimate, would create a market for raw gold, and thus—which was a much-coveted desideratum—the gold-digger of South Australia would be laid under inducements to return with his auriferous treasure to this colony. It was unanimously held that we were shut up to the line of policy we have indicated, if we would preserve the colony from general bankruptcy, and avert a catastrophe which threatened to engulf all our colonial interests, for a time at least, in overwhelming confusion. To embody these views in some definite shape it was resolved that the Chamber, in junction with the banks, should make urgent application to the Government to establish an Assay office, for the purpose of assaying and converting gold into stamped ingots, to be exchanged with the banks for their notes. Such was the crude form of a scheme which ultimately resolved itself into the present Bullion Act.

“At a special general meeting of the Chamber, held on the 19th of January last, a series of resolutions were submitted by the committee, embracing the views of the conference, to which reference has been made. These resolutions were unanimously adopted, and a memorial founded on them ordered to be prepared, to be presented by a deputation to his excellency the lieutenant-governor, praying him immediately to convene the Legislative Council for the purpose of obtaining his sanction to a measure for assaying and stamping gold, and making the bullion a legal tender.

“The result is well known; a reply was received from his excellency, stating that he would embrace the earliest opportunity of calling the Legislative Council together,

and that he would be prepared to submit such a measure as the emergency might require.

"The Legislative Council, convened on the hasty summons of his excellency, met in second session on the 28th January, when, after a brief discussion, the ordinance introduced by the Government was, with some amendments, unanimously carried, and afterwards in due course became law.

"And here it is only an act of justice to the Lieutenant-governor to acknowledge the obligations under which he has laid the colonists, for having, ~~for~~ considerable personal responsibility, although at their unanimous desire, affixed the Royal sanction to a measure which, however imperatively called for, and however beneficial in its operation, is apt to be looked upon with suspicion or aversion at a distance, where the peculiar circumstances which rendered it necessary, however forcibly described, can be but faintly appreciated. Such an act on his part is a graceful concession to the popular will, as expressed in one of its most intelligent forms, and as such is calculated to strengthen the good understanding which ought to subsist between the Government and the people.

"By the Bullion Act it was provided that an Assay-office should be established, under the auspices of Government, for melting, assaying, and stamping gold, for which a charge of 1 per cent. should be made to cover the cost of the establishment. It was further provided that the owners of gold stamped at the Assay-office should be entitled to demand of the banks their notes against the gold at the rate of £3 11s. per ounce for standard fineness, the gold in such case being passed direct from the Assay-office to the banks. It was also provided that the gold ingots should be a legal tender at the banks, and that the notes of the banks should be a legal tender between third parties. These were the chief features of the measure, which was to last for one twelvemonth from the period of its enactment.

"The effect of this measure was little short of miraculous. Credit and confidence were almost instantaneously restored; the extreme tightness in the money market was relieved; our traders were enabled to meet their engagements; and the public mind was at once raised from a state of paralysing despondency to one of hopefulness and vigour. In its more permanent results the measure has greatly exceeded the expectations which were formed of it. The most sanguine could only have calculated that it

would break our fall—that it would save the colony from general bankruptcy. No one could have foreseen that, in less than six months, we would not only be rescued from impending ruin, but that our condition would be infinitely more sound and healthful and prosperous than ever it had been before; and yet such is indisputably the case. The enormous stock of goods, which formerly lay like an incubus on the market, has—by exports to Melbourne, where, generally speaking, they realized *saving* prices—been reduced to a manageable compass. In point of fact, the demand now in many cases anticipates the supply. The amount of paper under discount at the banks, which formerly was excessive in so small a trading community, has dwindled into, comparatively, an insignificant sum. Cash payments in the transaction of business, which were wont to be the exception, are now becoming the rule. Discounting on 'Change at extravagant rates of interest, which formerly was of the nature of trade, has altogether ceased. There is no longer any borrowing on mortgage. Old arrears are being rapidly paid off. A large amount of petty debts in the books of our traders, which were looked upon as incurably bad, are daily being liquidated. Added to all this, there is in the province, and, at the diggings (where deposit receipts have already been signed by our resident Commissioner for about £250,000 worth), gold to the value of £1,000,000, the property of our colonists, which will shortly be seeking investment in the purchase of land, and in other branches of our colonial industry."

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TARIFF.

THE following is the New Tariff, which came into operation on the 26th of December, 1852:—

[The act was passed in the Legislative Council on the 17th of October, 1851, and was then intended, in the terms of the act, to take effect on the 26th of December following; but the act having been reserved by the Governor for her Majesty's assent, has not hitherto acquired the

force of law. Her Majesty's assent has since been officially notified, and the act being thus perfected, has been held to apply to the 26th of December, 1852.—*Adelaide Observer*, Nov. 15, 1852.

Arms, apparel, basket, boot, brass, manufactures, brushes, carriages, clocks and watches, copper manufactures, cutlery, drapery, drugs, earthenware, glass, furniture, glass manufactures, groceries, haberdashery, hosiery, hardware, hats and caps, implements and tools, jewellery, lead manufactures, leather ditto, linen ditto, machinery, mats and matting, musical instruments, oilmen's stores, paper stained and hangings, perfumery, pewter ware, pictures and prints, plate and plated goods, saddlery and harness, silk manufactures, stationery, tinware, toys and turnery, wood manufactures, wool ditto, and zinc ditto, are charged with an <i>ad valorem</i> duty of	5 per cent.		
Spirits, of all kinds, not above proof, per gallon	0	6	0
Wine, per gallon	0	2	0
Beer, porter, ale, cider, and perry, ditto	0	0	4
Vinegar, ditto	0	0	1
Animals, living; passengers' baggage; bottles, imported full; bullion and coin; plants and trees; seeds and roots; specimens of natural history, and woollen manufactures	Duty Free.		
Bacon and hams, per cwt.	0	2	6
Books, printed, ditto	0	6	0
Boots and shoes, per dozen pair, from	0s.	to 1	0
Bricks, per thousand	2	0	0
Candles, wax, composition, &c. per hundred	6	0	0
Carts and drays, 2 wheeled, each	0	10	0
Ditto 4 do. do.	1	0	0
Cheese, per cwt.	0	2	0
Wheat, per quarter	0	1	6
Barley and oats, ditto	0	1	3
Maize and millet, ditto	0	1	0
Peas, beans, and pulse, ditto	0	1	6
Flour and meal, per hundred lbs	0	3	0
Dried Fruits, per cwt.	0	2	0
Guns powder, sporting, ditto	0	5	0
Ditto. blasting, do.	0	2	2

	£.	s.	d.
Iron, bar and rod, per ton	0	10	0
Do., sheet and hoop, ditto	0	14	0
Do., pig, per ton	0	5	0
Leather, sole, per cwt.	0	3	0
Do., kip and harness, ditto	0	6	0
Bails, per dozen	0	0	6
Enamel, per cwt.	0	3	6
Paper, brown, wrapping, per cwt.	0	3	0
Ditto, printing, ditto	0	5	0
Ditto, writing, ditto	0	0	1
Sugar, refined, candied, per cwt.	0	4	0
Ditto, muscovado, and molasses, ditto	0	2	0
Tin plates, per box	0	2	0
Tobacco, manufactured, per lb.	0	1	0
Ditto, unmanufactured, ditto	0	0	6
Ditto, boiled down in board, for sheep-wash, per lb.	0	0	1
Cigars and cheroots, per lb.	0	2	6
Snuff, ditto	0	2	0
Shingles, red laths, per thousand	0	0	6
Treenails and spikes, per hundred	0	0	2
Posts, rails, &c., ditto	0	1	6
Square timber, balks, spars, deals, &c. per 40 cubic feet	0	2	6
Cocks, per gross	0	0	1

THE ENFORCEMENT OF CONTRACTS MADE IN ENGLAND WITH REFER- ENCE TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

By the kindness of Mr. Leslie, member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, for the Clarence district, we are enabled to solve the vexed question as to the power of enforcing in a part of Australia, labour-contracts made in England. The colonial legislature of New South Wales has fully provided for this important object, by the 3rd and 5th clauses of an act to amend a previous act known as the "Masters and Servants' Act." The 3rd clause provides that contracts entered into in Great

Britain, or elsewhere, the conditions of which are to be fulfilled in New South Wales, shall be equally valid as though they had been executed in the colony. And to remove, as far as possible, all quibbles which might arise as to the legal nature of such documents, the 5th clause of the act gives power to the justice to examine both master and servant on oath; and any breach of contract can only be made by either, by the commission of perjury. The act is stringent enough for all general purposes; and under its provisions, labour contracts may be made in this country with reference to New South Wales, which will be as valid as a commercial transaction.

We subjoin the clauses of the act alluded to.—

Declaring that Agreements made without the Colony subject the parties thereto to the same jurisdiction and penalties as if made within the Colony

III. And whereas it was recited by the said act, among other things, that “servants in the United Kingdom, in British Colonies, in the British East India Possessions, and in Foreign Countries, occasionally contract, by indenture or other written agreement, with persons about to proceed to, or actually resident in, New South Wales;” And whereas doubts have arisen whether such contracts by indenture or other written agreement are subject to the summary jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace, and it is expedient to remove the said doubts: Be it therefore declared and enacted, that all such contracts by indenture or other written agreement shall be of the like force and effect within the said colony of New South Wales, as if they had actually been made and executed by the respective parties thereto within the same; and shall subject every such party for any breach thereof, upon summary conviction by or before any two or more justices, to the like fines, penalties, and punishment as in and by the said recited act are provided, for any willful violation of the provisions of any indenture or other written agreement lawfully made or executed within the said colony, or for any misdemeanour, misbehaviour, misconduct, or ill-behaviour of any master or servant within the same: provided that no such

contract shall be binding on any person for a longer period than five years.

Justices to examine parties on oath or otherwise at their discretion.

And whereas, doubts are entertained as to whether it is not imperative on justices under the said recited act to examine for in complaint against defendant upon oath, and it is advisable to be enacted, that it may be enacted by any justice or justices of the peace acting under the said recited act, or under this act, to exercise his or their discretion as to the examination of any complainant or complainants, or defendant or defendants, under the same.

AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS.

6

Some idea of the importance of the Australian Colonies may be inferred from the following account of the Exports from the different provinces, in 1851. The returns for 1852 have not yet been received.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Oil, black, 642 tons; tallow, 721 tons; leather, 336 bales; copper, value, £5,293; copper ore, 1,888 tons; gold, value, £54; wool, 47,792 bales; tallow, 11,098 casks; hides, 59,545—imported in 41 ships; the average cargo of wool being 1,165 bales; the average number of passengers, 128; and the total value, £1,222,670.

PORT PHILIP.—Leather, 151 bales; wheat, 1,000 tons; wool, 55,814 bales; tallow, 9,337 casks; hides, 3,357—imported in 36 ships; the average cargo of wool being 1,578 bales; the average number of passengers, 122; and the total value, £1,272,845.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Wool, 1,069 bales; guano, 4,100 tons, imported in seven ships; the average cargo of wool being 173 bales; the average number of passengers, 103; and the total value, £29,780.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Leather, 3 bales; copper, value, £89,000; copper ore, 3,900 tons; wool, 12,170 bales; tallow, 195 casks—imported in 18 ships; the average cargo of wool being 676 bales; the average number of passengers, 141; and the total value, £415,000.

HOVEART TOWN.—Oil, black, 316 tons; ditto, sperm, 644 tons; leather, 231 bales; wool, 11,617 bales; tallow, 81 casks; &c. &c. 228—imported in 13 ships; the average cargo of wool being 909 bales; the average number of passengers, 116; and the total value, £266,738.

LAUNCESTON.—Leather, 48 bales; wool, 6,635 bales; the average cargo of wool being 829 bales, imported in 8 ships; the average number of passengers, 126; and the total value, £152,798.9d.

PORTLAND BLADE.—Oil, sperm, 1,000 tons; wool, 6,222 bales; tallow, 139 casks; imported in 17 ships; the average cargo of wool being 1,261 bales; the average number of passengers, 133; and the total value, £130,400.

RECAPITULATION.—Oil: black, 938 tons; ditto, sperm, 1,460 tons; leather, 729 bales; wheat, 6 yrs.; copper, value, £88,278; copper ore, 6,028 tons; wool, 143,280 bales; tallow, 20,792 casks; hides, 66,908; guano, 2,100 tons; total value, £3,486,768.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

THE establishment of Steam communication with Australia has already been effected, and the result has proved so satisfactory, that no less than three different routes will soon be established, viz;

- 1.—By the Cape of Good Hope, calling at Table Bay, Swan River, Adelaide, Victoria, to Sydney.
- 2.—Overland to Singapore, from thence, calling at Swan River, Adelaide, Victoria, to Sydney.
- 3.—The Australian Pacific Mail Steam Packet Company (which will commence running in a few months,) to Chagres, from thence to Aspinwall, across the Isthmus to Panama, and calling at one of the Sandwich Islands, to Sydney direct.

